

# Everything you ever wanted or needed to know about **Breast Cancer**

*(Well, not really....)*

Cell 616

Advanced Topics in Cancer Biology

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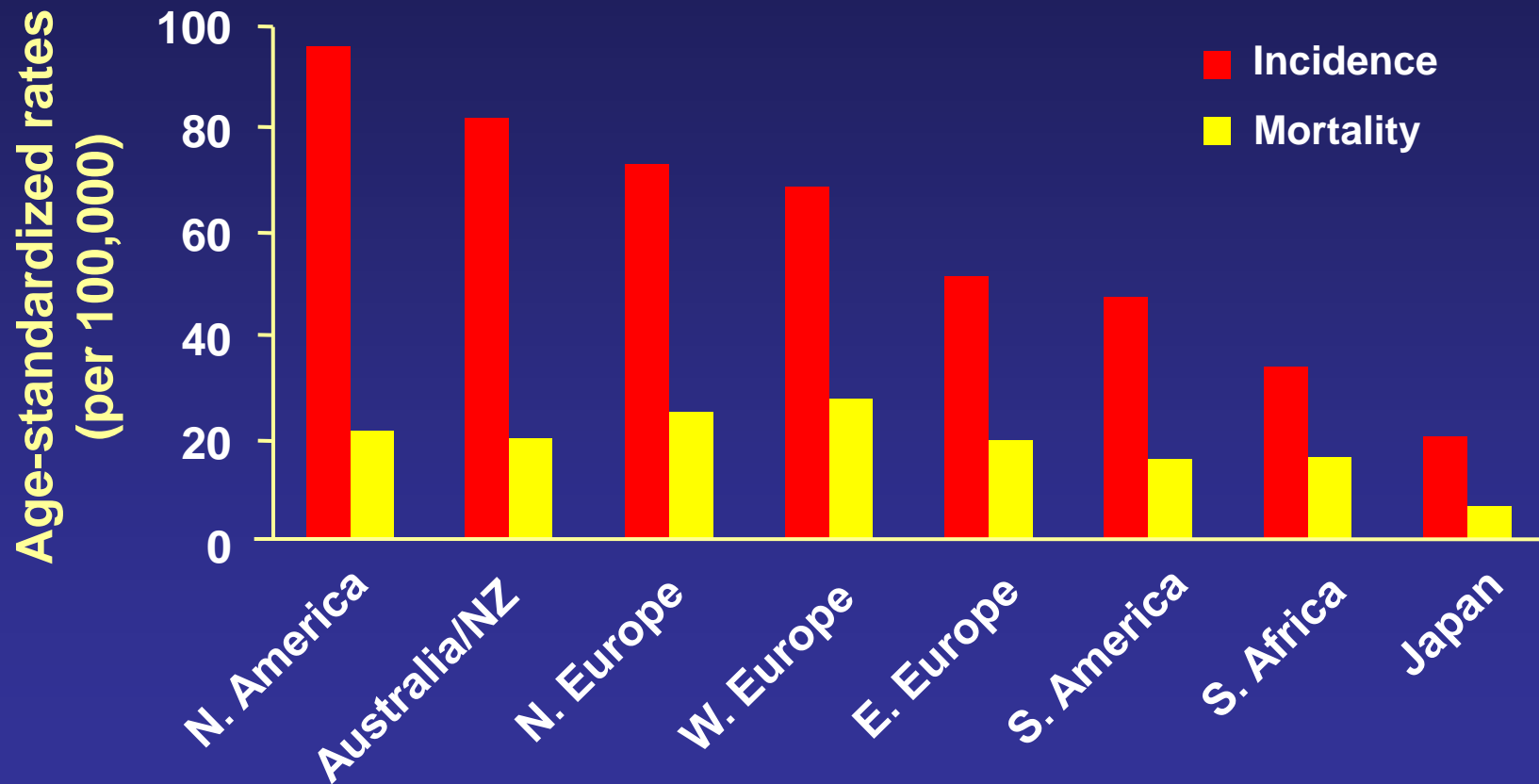
Oregon Health & Science University

# Outline

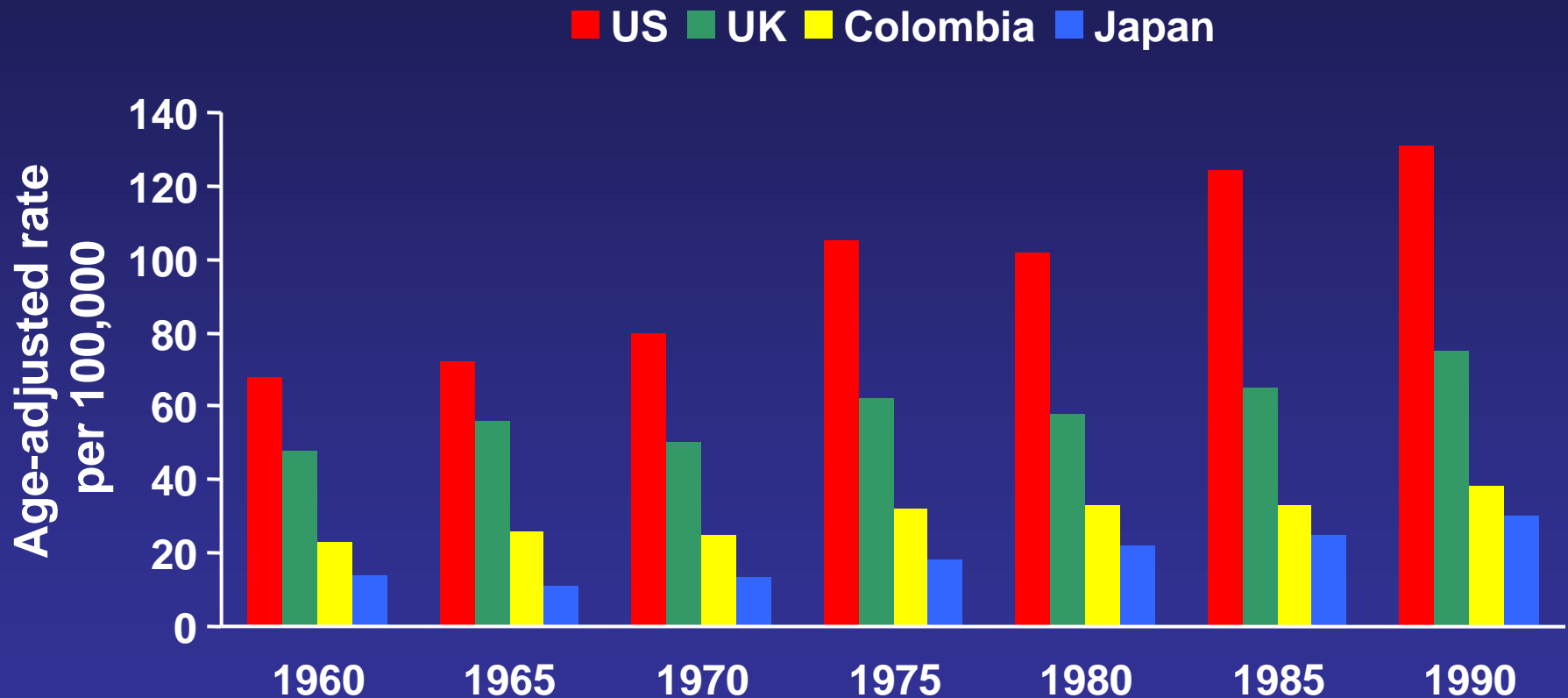
- Epidemiology
- Breast cancer screening and detection
- Prognosis and Treatment of Early (“potentially curable”) Breast Cancer according to:
  - Anatomic size
  - HER2 status
  - Hormone receptor status
  - Genomic analysis

# **Breast cancer incidence and epidemiology**

# Incidence and Mortality of Breast Cancer Worldwide in 2000



# The Incidence of Breast Cancer is on the Increase Worldwide



SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1973-1999. NCI, 2001. Available at: [www.seer.cancer.gov](http://www.seer.cancer.gov).

Parkin et al. *Eur J Cancer*. 2001;37(suppl 8):S4.

# BREAST CANCER IS COMMON

- > 220,000 cases/yr in USA alone
- #1 life threatening cancer in women
  - 1 in 8 lifetime risk
- #2 cancer mortality (after lung cancer)
  - 40,000 deaths annually
  - 1 in 30 women will die from breast cancer

# Age as a Risk Factor for Breast Cancer

	<i>RISK</i>
By age 30	1 out of 2,000
By age 40	1 out of 233
By age 50	1 out of 53
By age 60	1 out of 22
By age 70	1 out of 13
By age 80	1 out of 9
Lifetime risk	1 out of 8

# Breast cancer risk factors (1)

## Controllable

- Alcohol intake
- Being overweight
- Oral contraceptives (very slight)
- Use of postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Exposure to large amounts of radiation

## Uncontrollable

- Getting older
- 1<sup>st</sup> degree relative with breast cancer
- A previous breast biopsy showing atypical changes
- Younger age at the time of starting menses
- Older age at the time of menopause (>55 years)



## Breast cancer risk factors (2)

### “Controllable”

- Never having children
- 1<sup>st</sup> child at >30 years of age

### Uncontrollable

- Having an inherited mutation in the breast cancer genes (BRCA 1 or 2)

# Breast Cancer Risk Factors

- Risk Factors do not cause breast cancer but are associated with an increased chance of getting breast cancer

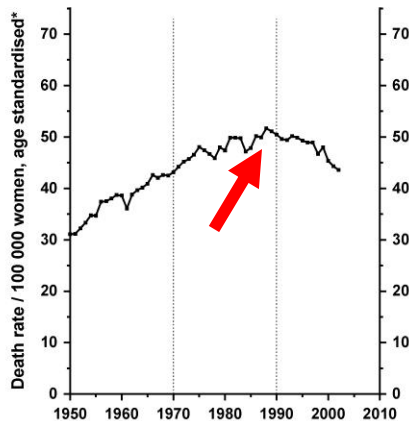
# New cancer diagnoses in U.S. 2008:

• <b>Breast cancer:</b>	<b>182,460</b>
• Prostate cancer	186,320
• Lung cancer:	215,020
• Colorectal cancer	108,070
• Testicular cancer:	8,090
• Pancreatic cancer:	37,680
• Hodgkin Lymphoma:	8,220
• Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma:	66,120
• Acute Myeloid Leukemia:	13,290

# Breast Cancer Mortality Rates Have Been Decreasing Since The Early 1990's

## FRANCE 1950-2002

Breast cancer mortality at ages 35-69

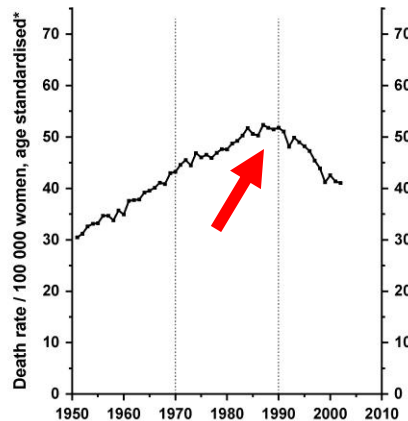


\*Mean of annual rates in the seven component 5-year age groups

Source: WHO mortality & UN population estimates

## ITALY 1951-2002

Breast cancer mortality at ages 35-69

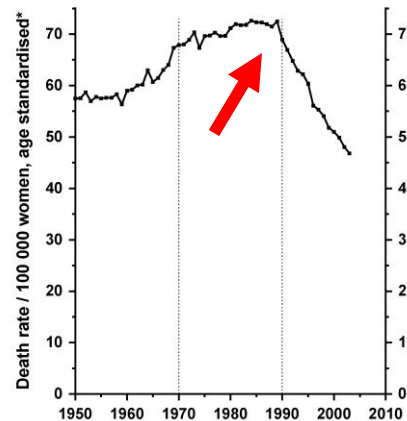


\*Mean of annual rates in the seven component 5-year age groups

Source: WHO mortality & UN population estimates

## U.K. 1950-2003

Breast cancer mortality at ages 35-69

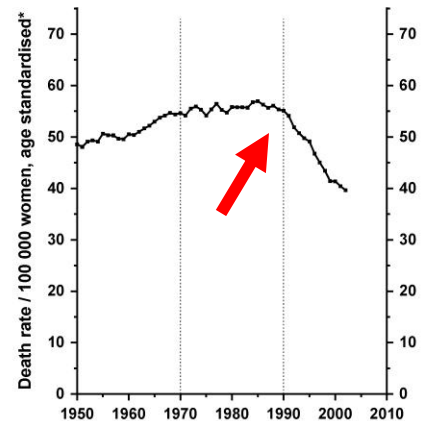


\*Mean of annual rates in the seven component 5-year age groups

Source: WHO mortality & UN population estimates

## U.S. 1950-2003

Breast cancer mortality at ages 35-69



\*Mean of annual rates in the seven component 5-year age groups

Source: WHO mortality & UN population estimates

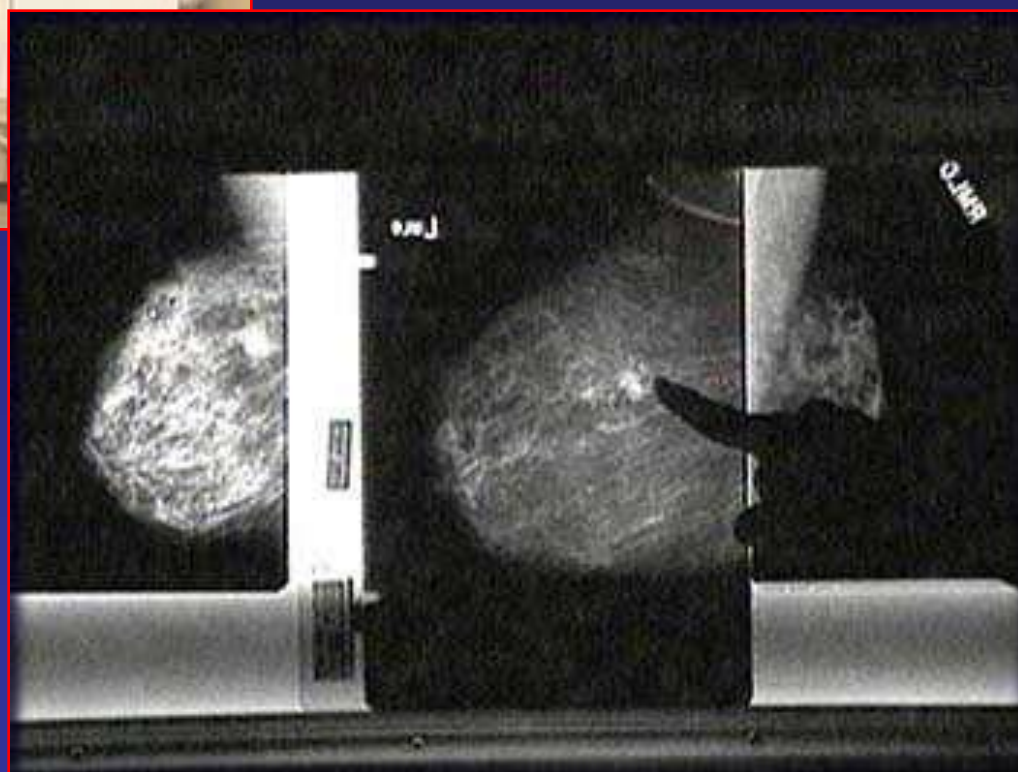
**25-30% ↓ in breast cancer mortality since 1990!**

*Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG)  
Lancet 365 (May 2005), 1687-1717*

# **Breast cancer screening and detection**

# How is breast cancer detected?

- Physician/caregiver breast examination:  
*LOUSY*
- Breast self examination:  
*EVEN WORSE*
- **Screening mammography**





# Mammograms are imperfect tests

- Sensitivity is 77-95% overall
    - 54-58% in women < 40
    - 81-94% in women > 65
      - Depends on lesion size, conspicuity, tissue density, patient age, hormone status, image quality, and interpretive skill of the radiologist
  - Practice Makes Perfect:
    - Sensitivity 70.3% for low volume MD
    - 78.6% for high volume radiologists
- High breast density = lower sensitivity
- 10-29% lower in one study



# Mammography benefits

- Meta-analysis:

**Breast cancer deaths ↓26% age 50-74**

Kerlikowske JAMA 1995;273:149

- Retrospective studies:

- **Breast cancer deaths ↓44% (Sweden)**

Tabar *Lancet* 2003;361:1405

- **Breast cancer deaths ↓19.9% (Netherlands)**

Otto *Lancet* 2003;361:1411

# Screening recommendations

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American Cancer Society (ACS)  
American College of Radiology (ACR)  
American College of Surgeons  
National Cancer Institute (NCI)  
American Medical Association (AMA)  
American College of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists (ACOG)  
American Medical Women's Association

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**Mammography  
beginning age 40**

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American College of Physicians (ACP)  
Canadian Task Force on Periodic Health  
Examination (CTFPHE)

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**Recommend *against*  
screening <50 yo**

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American College of Preventive Medicine  
(ACPM)  
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force  
(USPSTF)

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**Insufficient evidence  
to recommend  
screening <50 yo**

# Screening Mammography

- Mammography National averages (CDC):
  - Overall 71% of women >40 years have had at least 1 mxr in last 2 yrs
  - Low-income women and women w/o health insurance were 58% and 50%
- Why don't women get mammograms?
  - Fear of radiation, anxiety that may not find CA, worry that CA might actually be detected, embarrassment, discomfort, pain

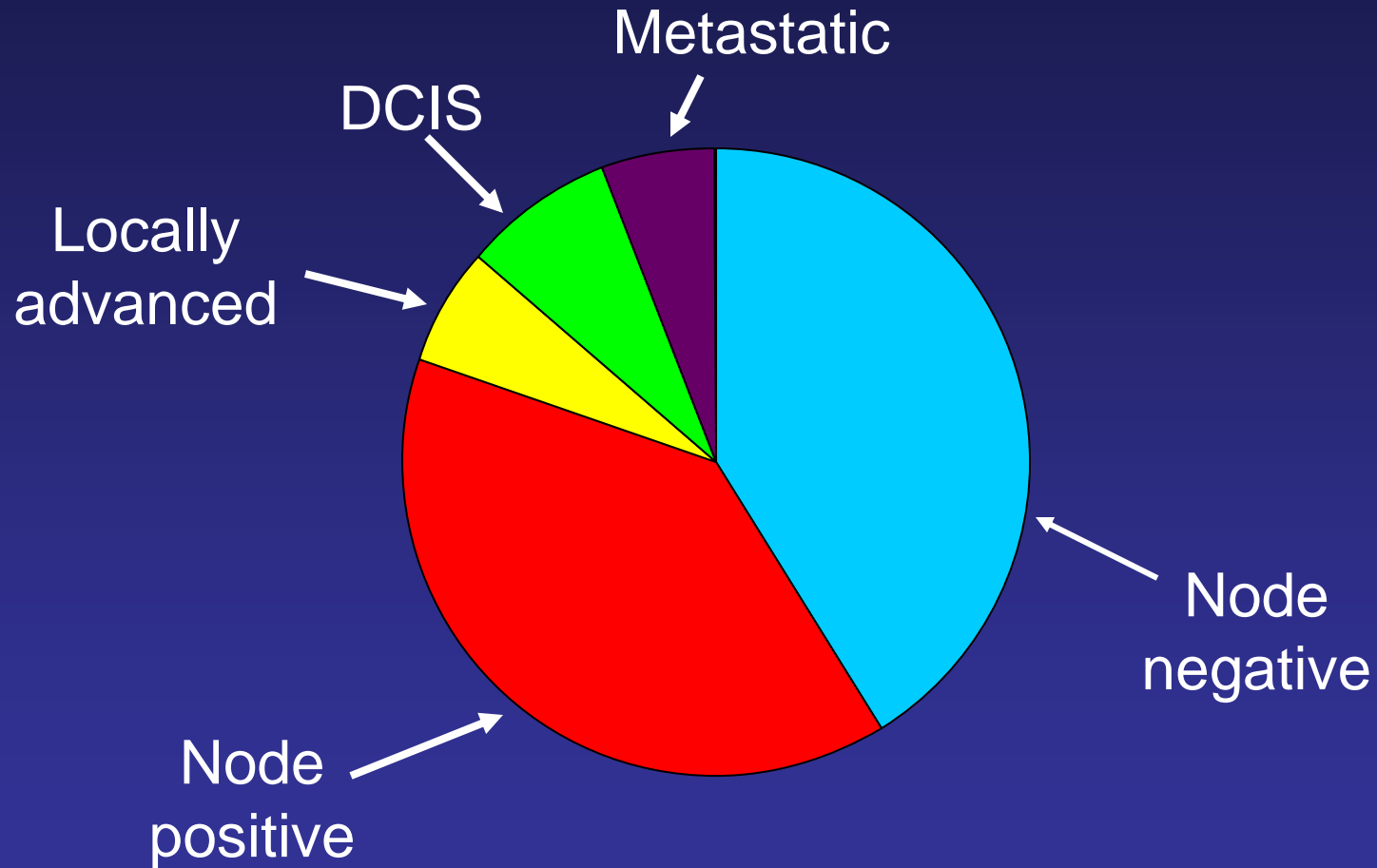
*Factors that may discourage annual mammography among low-income women with access to free mammograms: a study using multi-ethnic, multiracial focus groups. Bobo JK, Psychol. Rep. Oct. 1999, 85(2).*

# Other screening tests for breast cancer

- **Breast MRI**
  - Can detect mammographically occult malignancies in high risk patients (particularly in dense breast parenchyma)
  - Expensive
  - Many false positives requiring additional imaging/biopsy
- **Breast ultrasound**
  - Poor (useless?) screening test
  - Good for distinguishing solid masses from cystic masses
- **Serum/blood tests**
  - Don't exist!

**Early** (*“potentially curable”*)  
**versus**  
**Metastatic** (*“incurable”*)  
**Breast Cancer**

# Distribution of Disease at Presentation



# Breast Cancer Treatment

- **Early Breast Cancer** (*potentially curable*):
  - Loco-regional Therapy
    - Surgery
    - Radiation
  - Adjuvant Systemic Therapy
    - Chemotherapy
    - Hormone therapy
- **Metastatic Breast Cancer** (*incurable*):
  - Palliative

# Loco-regional therapies for Early BC

## Clinical paradigm shift

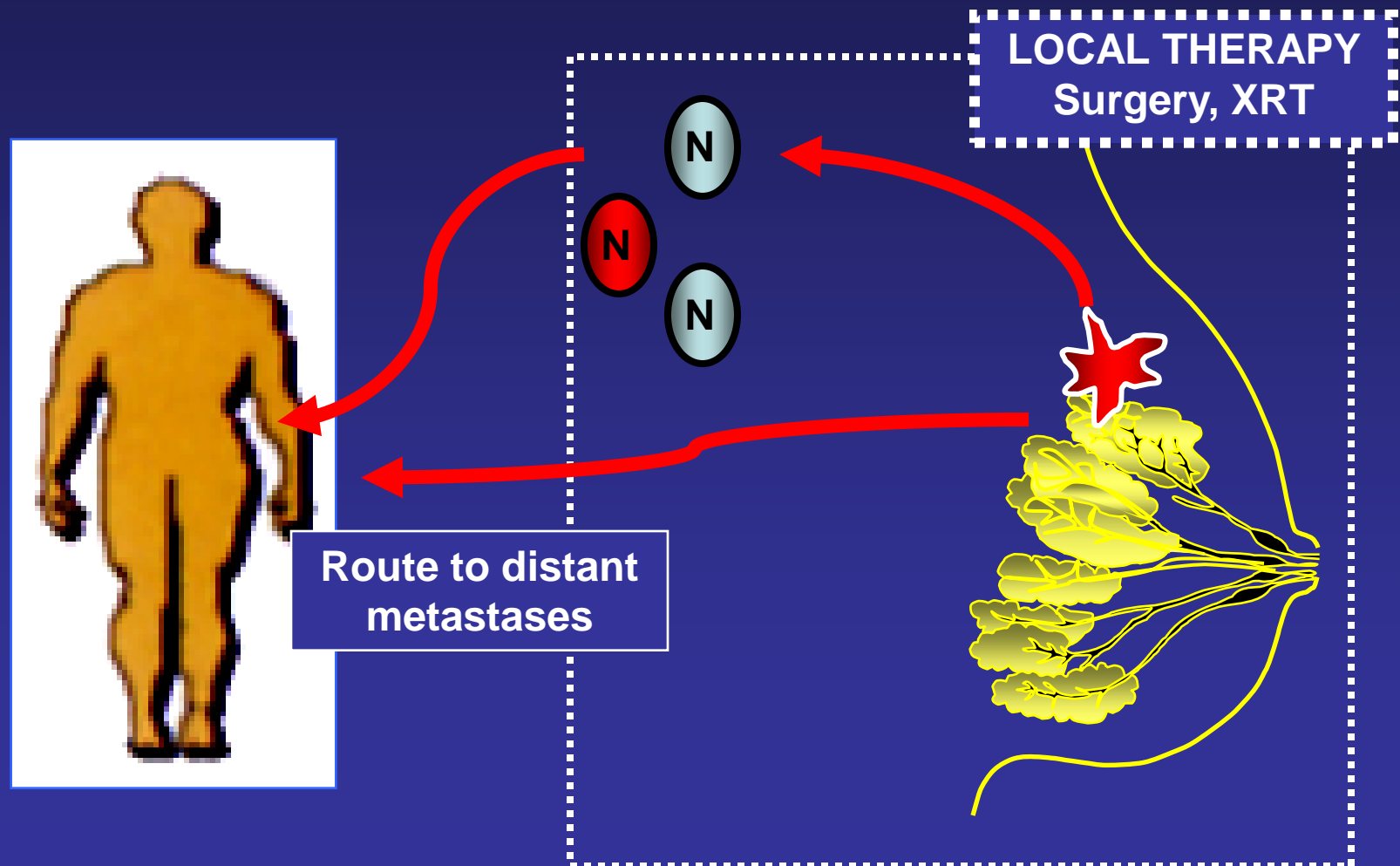
- **Early-mid 1900's**
  - Radical mastectomy
  - Axillary dissection
- **1980's**
  - Wide local resection
  - Axillary dissection
  - External Beam Radiation Therapy
- **2000's**
  - Wide local resection
  - Sentinel nodes
  - Partial breast irradiation???



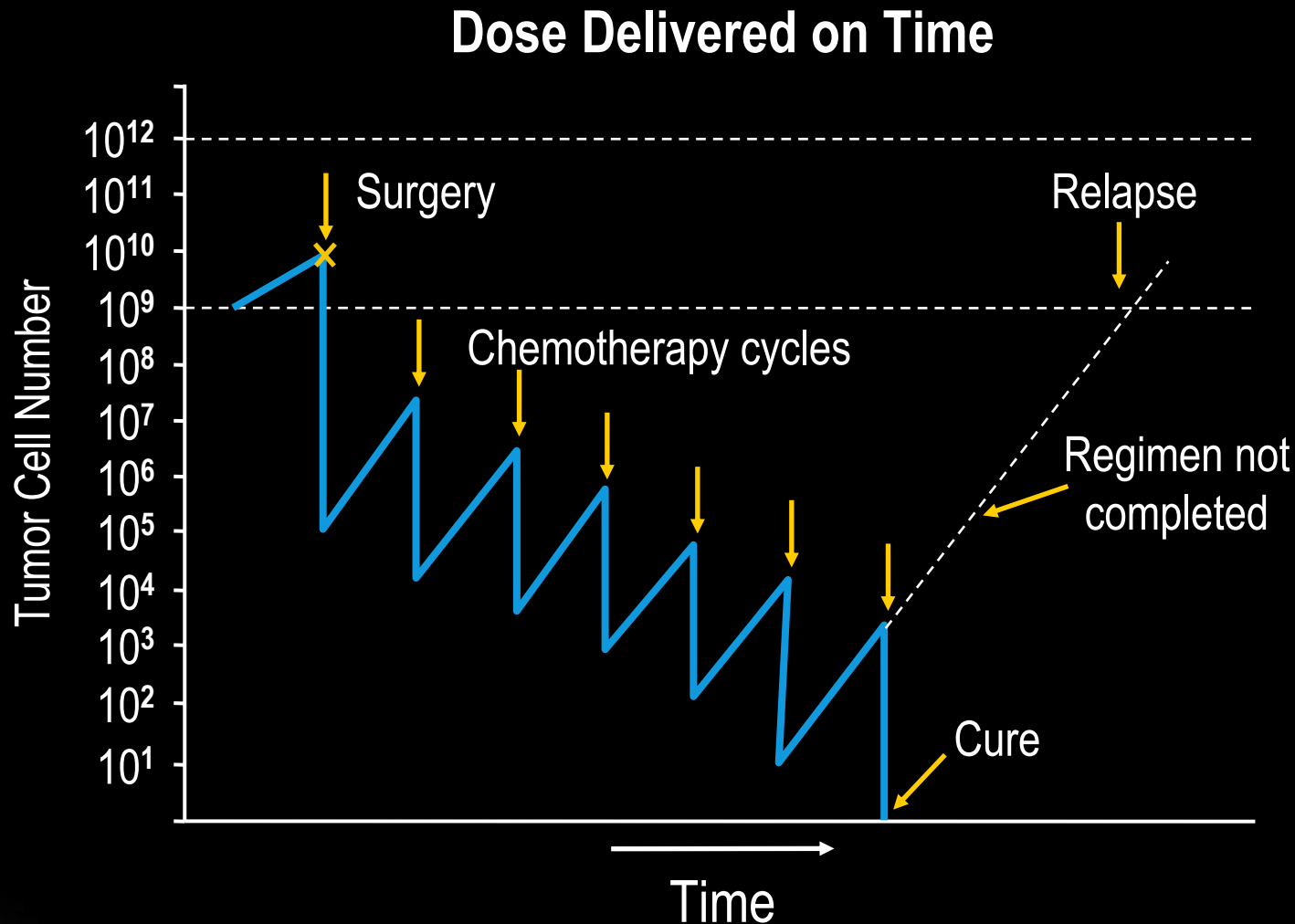


# Adjuvant Systemic Therapy for Early Breast Cancer

- Eliminate micrometastatic disease



# Theoretical Cure With Adjuvant Chemotherapy



# *The field of breast cancer is experiencing a major paradigm shift...*

## **THE OLD WAY:**

- Use anatomic predictors to risk-stratify patients
- Treat the entire population of breast cancer patients:  
*Small relative benefits = Large absolute numbers*



## **THE NEW WAY:**

- Use biologic factors to risk-stratify patients
- Individualize therapy to each patient:  
*Offer the most effective therapy(ies) for each tumor*

# How To Risk-Stratify and Make Treatment Decisions for Early Breast Cancer by Anatomic Size

*(i.e. how “big” is the tumor?)*

# 10-yr DFS Estimates with loco-regional therapy alone (No systemic adjuvant therapy) according to +ve nodes, 1<sup>o</sup> tumor size

# positive nodes	<1 cm	1-2 cm	2-3 cm	3-4 cm	4-5 cm	>5 cm
0	90	81	75	69	63	56
1-3	60	56	50	47	42	37
4-6	46	42	38	35	31	27
6-9	36	32	29	26	21	18
≥10	22	19	17	16	14	13

Values in body of table are percentages  
Loprinzi JCO 2001;19(4)

# Adjuvant!

[www.adjuvantonline.com](http://www.adjuvantonline.com)

## Adjuvant! input data

AGE  
COMORBIDITY  
TUMOR GRADE  
TUMOR SIZE  
NODES

Online Resources  
Downloads  
Personal Info.

10-yr ENDPOINT  
Relapse vs Mortality

## Treatment choice and efficacy

Chemo choice: Anthracycline-based  
Efficacy from literature: 43%

Microsoft Internet Explorer

Search Favorites Media

com/breaststandard.jsp

### Adjuvant! for Breast Cancer

**Patient Information**

Age: 48  
Comorbidity: Minor Problems  
ER Status: Negative  
Tumor Grade: Grade 3  
Tumor Size: 1.1 - 2.0 cm  
Positive Nodes: 1 - 3  
Calculate For: Relapse  
10 Year Risk: 45 Prognostic

**Adjuvant Therapy Effectiveness**

Horm: Overview 98 (Tamoxifen)  
Chemo: CA \* 4  
Hormonal Therapy: 0  
Chemotherapy: 43  
Combined Therapy: 43

**No additional therapy:**

53.2 alive and without cancer in 10 years.  
44.6 relapse.  
2.2 die of other causes.

**With hormonal therapy: Benefit = 0.0 without relapse.**

**With chemotherapy: Benefit = 15.8 without relapse.**

**With combined therapy: Benefit = 15.8 without relapse.**

Print  
Help

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RISK

BENEFIT

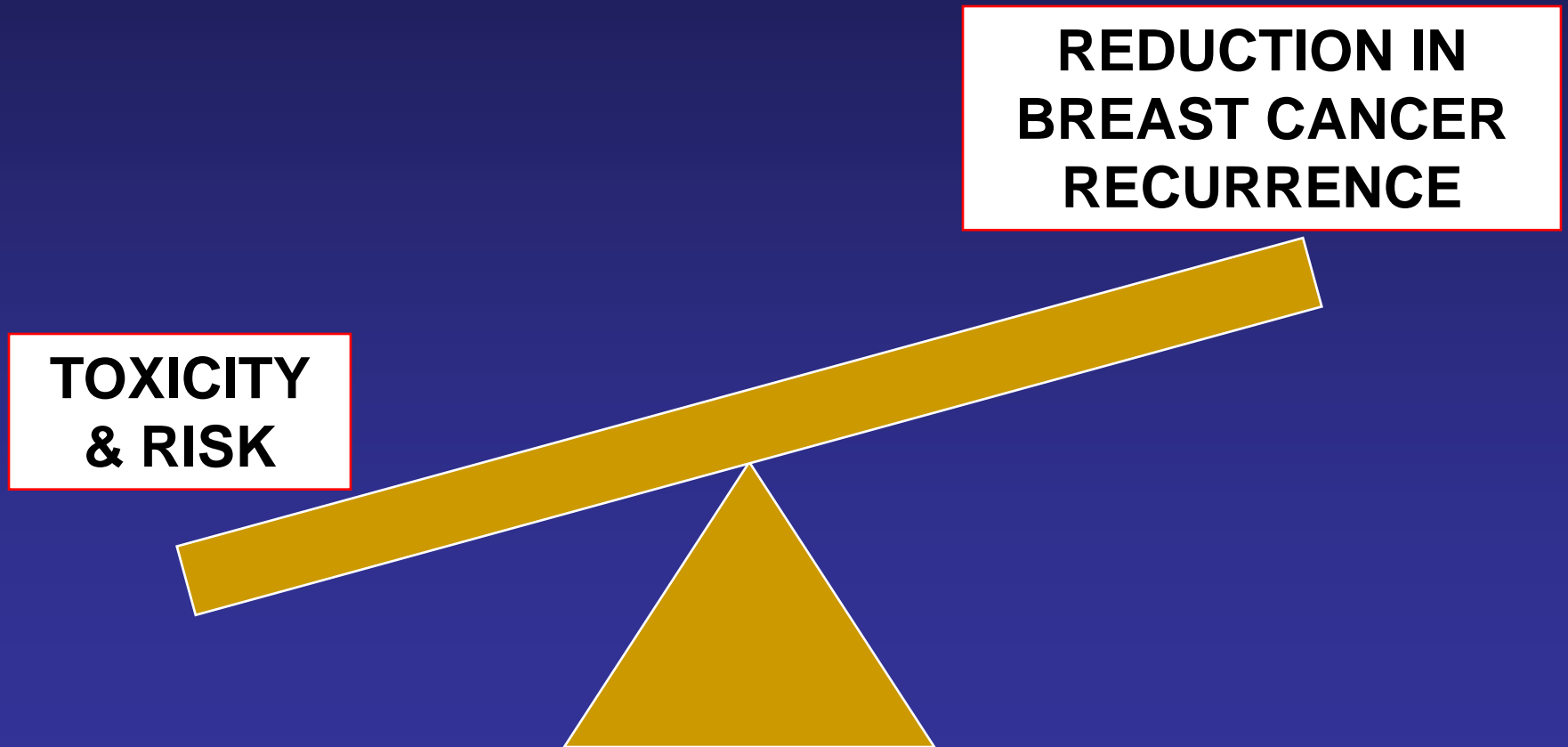
# Adjuvant! independent validation

British Columbia Cancer Agency

4083 women diagnosed with Stage I/II breast cancer 1989-1993.  
Compare 10-yr predicted vs. observed breast cancer outcomes.

Predicted vs. Observed 10-yr Breast Cancer Specific Survival				
Adjuvant therapy	N	Predicted by Adjuvant!	BCOU Observed	Pred - Obs
No Rx	1842	89.1%	90.0%	-1.0%
TAM alone	1249	81.2%	79.4%	1.8%
Chemo alone	631	74.6%	73.7%	+0.9%
Chemo + TAM	371	75.2%	70.6%	+4.6%

# Balancing risks and benefits in adjuvant breast cancer treatment





# **The Early Breast Cancer Trialists Collaborative Group i.e. “The Oxford Overview”**

The basis for “Group Therapy” of  
early breast cancer

# Breast Cancer

## Public Health impact of Adjuvant Treatment

Annual Incidence in USA > 180,000

Candidates for Adjuvant Therapy > 100,000

Modest benefit (i.e. 2% @ 10 years) translates into a large absolute benefit (2,000 relapse free @ 10 years) *across the entire population*

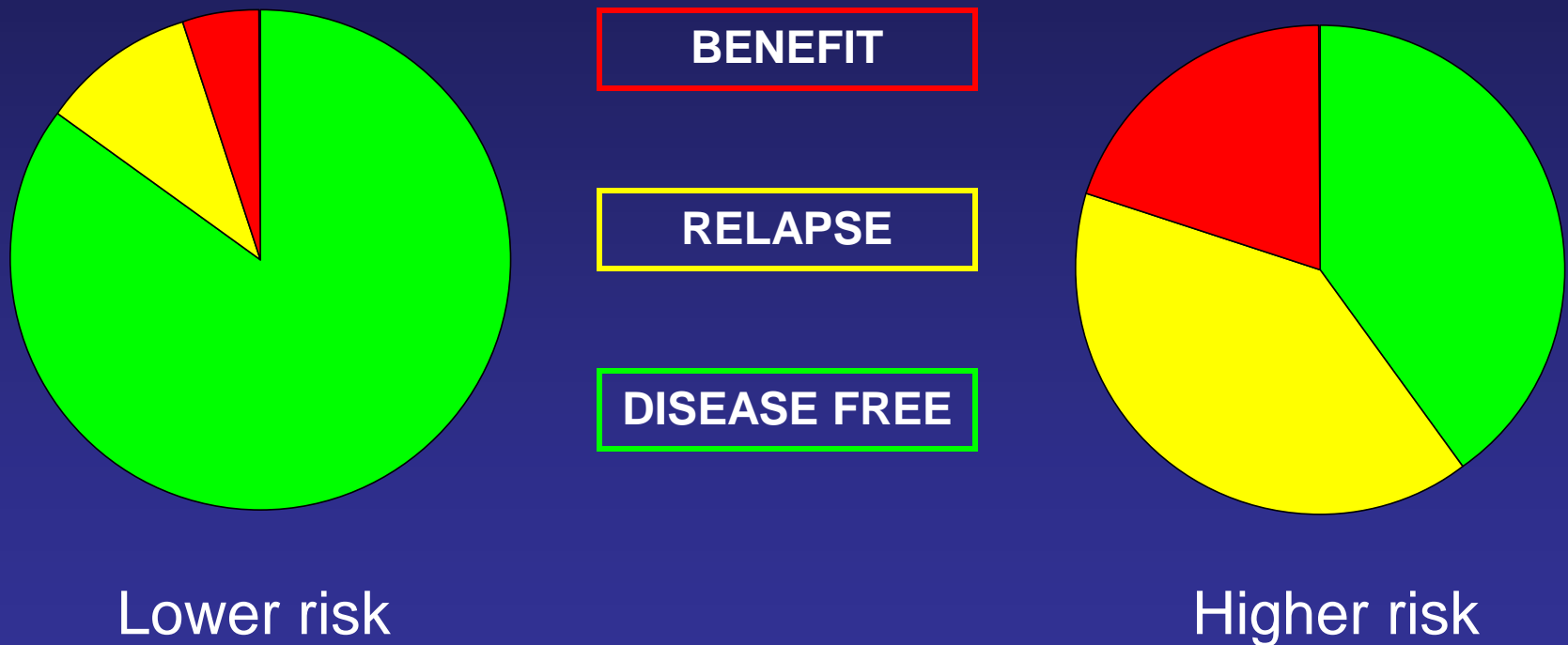
# EBCTCG - 2000

- All women on randomized trials begun before 1996 with survival main endpoint
- Tamoxifen
  - 50,000 tamoxifen
  - (10,000 – 5 years vs none)
- Ovarian Ablation: 4900 + 4200 for Goserelin
- Chemotherapy
  - 28,000 polychemo

# 15 year followup for early invasive breast cancer

Treatment	Proportional Annual Recurrence Reduction
Tamoxifen x 5 yrs (HR+)	40% (+/- 3%)
Combination Chemo (CMF, AC, etc...)	24% (+/- 2%)
Ovarian Ablation (HR+ premenopausal or <50 yo)	31% (+/- 8%) [7% +/- 4% w/ chemo]

# The impact of adjuvant therapy is proportional to the risk of relapse



# Adjuvant breast cancer chemotherapy regimens

**CMF**                      Cyclophosphamide + Methotrexate  
                                 + 5-Fluorouracil

**AC**                        Doxorubicin (Adriamycin™) +  
                                 Cyclophosphamide

**AC-Taxol**              AC + Paclitaxel

**TAC**                     Docetaxel (Taxotere™) +  
                                 Doxorubicin (Adriamycin™) +  
                                 Cyclophosphamide

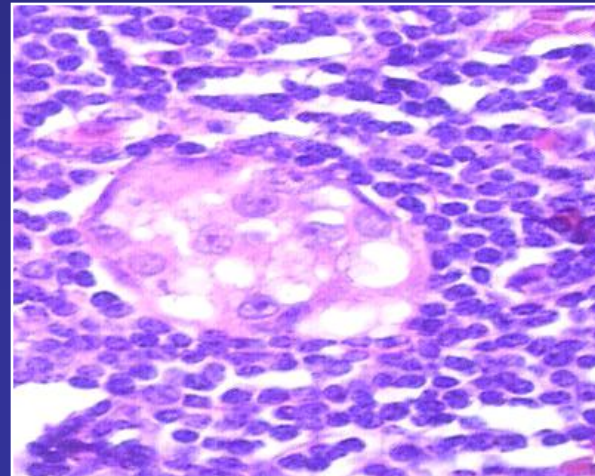
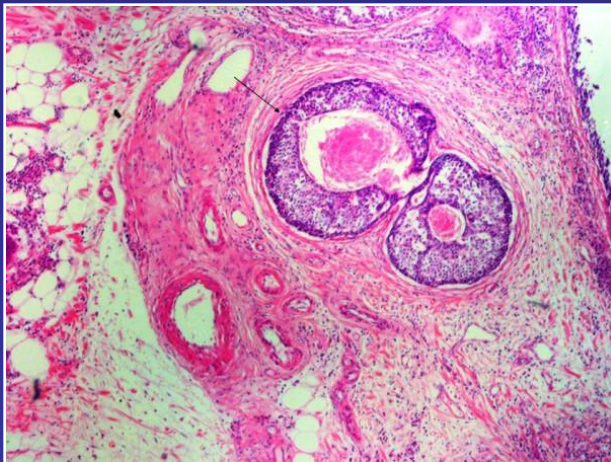
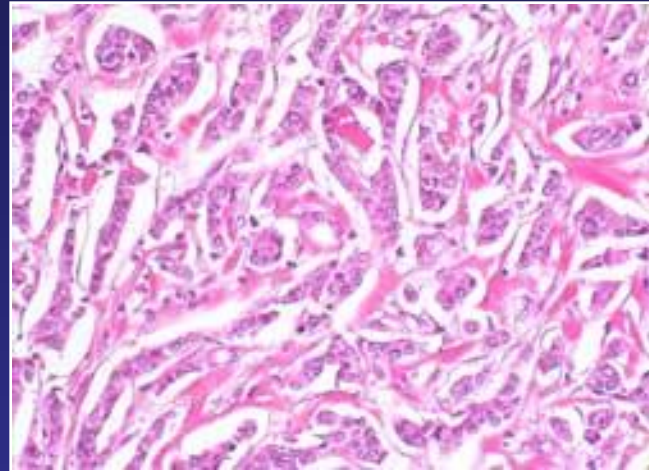
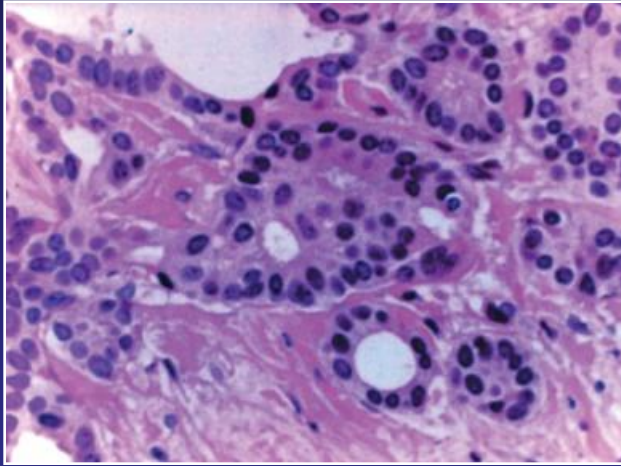
**FAC/FEC**              Fluorouracil + Doxorubicin or  
                                 Epirubicin + Cyclophosphamide

**TC**                        Docetaxel (Taxotere™) +  
                                 Cyclophosphamide

**Can we be smarter about risk stratifying and treating breast cancer, by understanding the underlying *biology* of the tumor?**

1. HER2-positive breast cancer
2. Hormone receptor-positive breast cancer

Risk stratification according to anatomy does  
NOT take into account the underlying  
biologic characteristics of the tumor



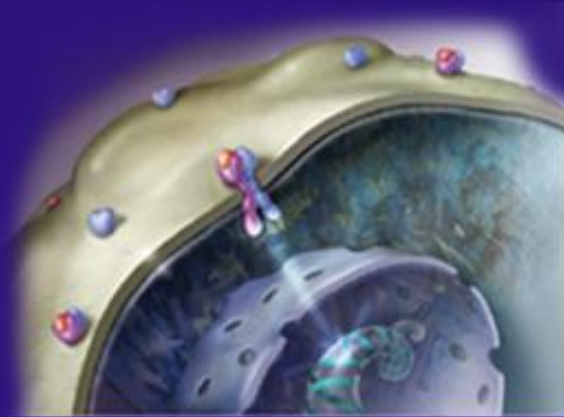


# **The HER2-positive subset of Breast Cancers**

# The HER2+ subtype of breast cancer and its clinical management

- HER2+ represents a distinct molecular subtype
- HER2+ tumors have a unique clinical behaviour (shorter DFS, more visceral and CNS metastases)
- HER2+ tumors exhibit a peculiar pattern of sensitivity to chemo and hormonal therapy
- HER2 targeting agents have dramatically changed the course of this disease and represent now the foundation of treatment in early and advanced disease

# HER2 Overexpression in Breast Cancer

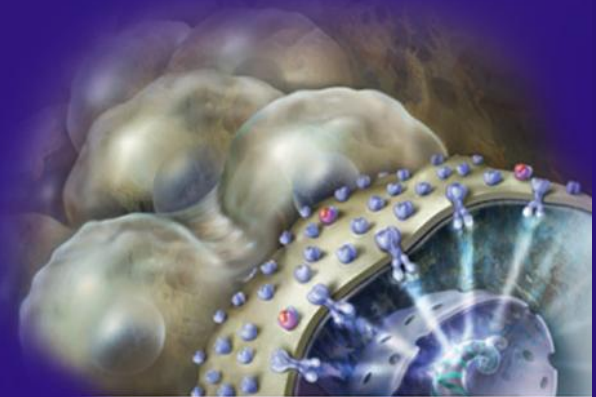


**Normal (1X)  
~20,000-50,000  
HER2 receptors**

**HER2 is overexpressed in  
~20% of breast cancers**

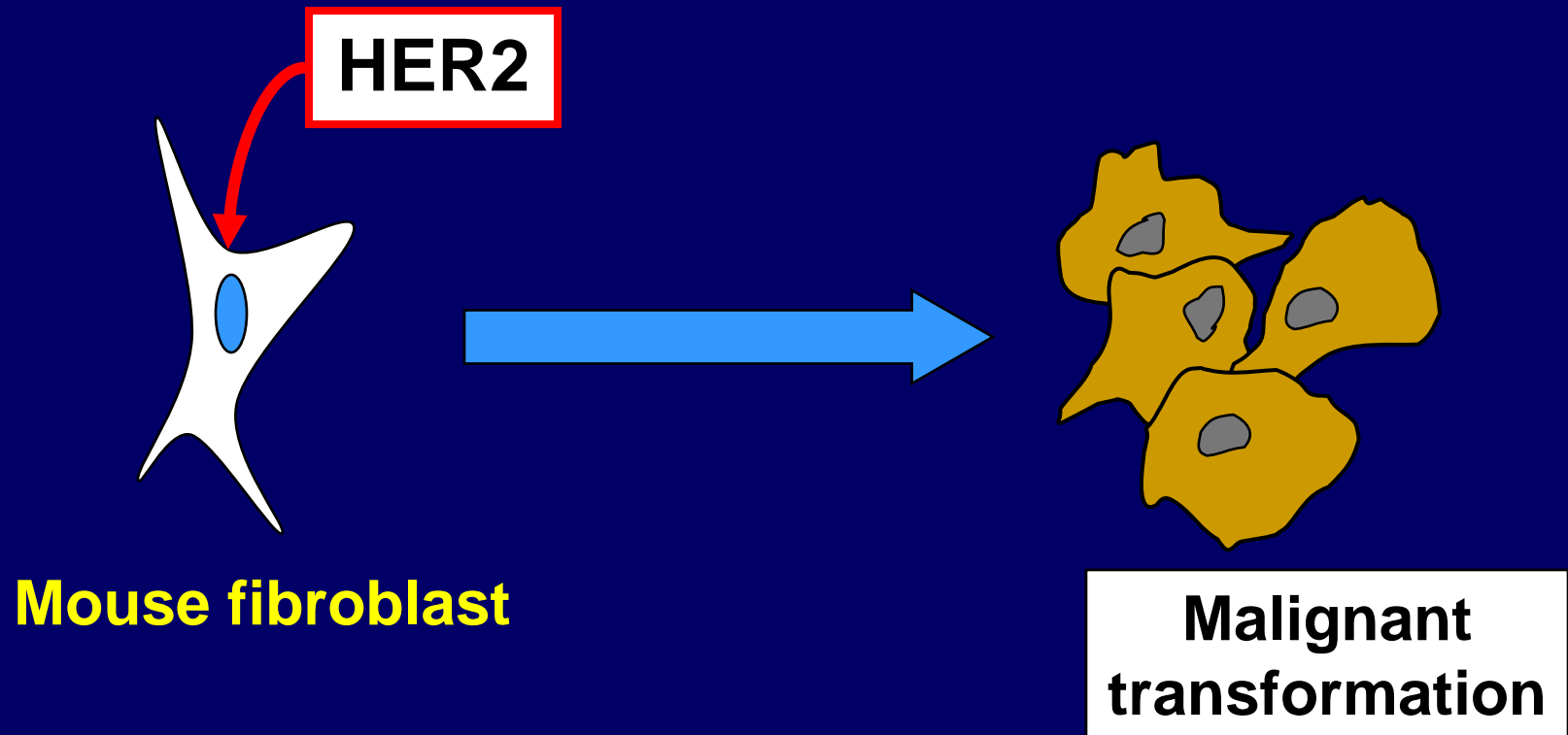


**Overexpressed HER2 (10-100X)  
Up to ~2,000,000 HER2 receptors**



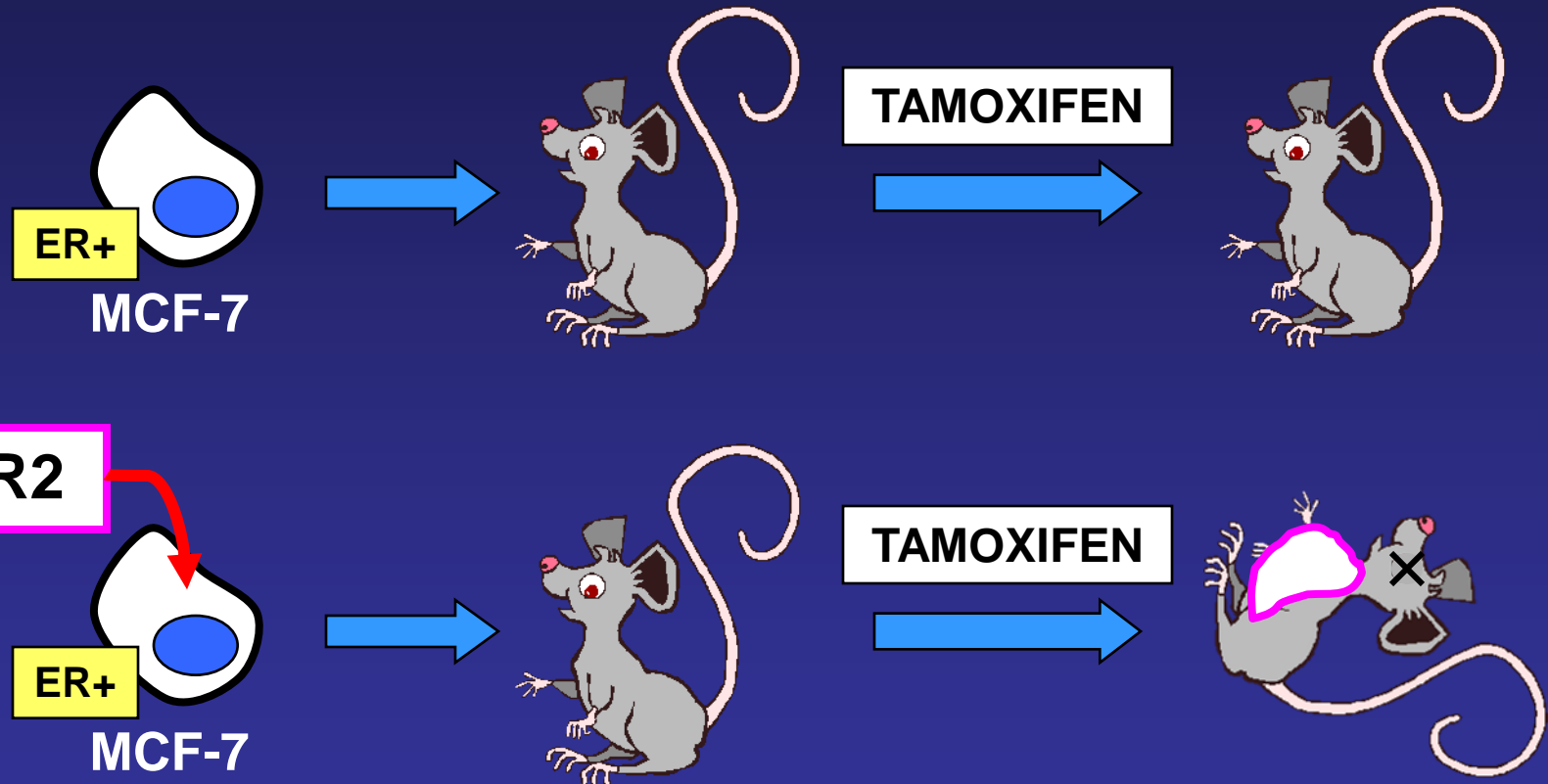
**Cell-cycle progression  
Survival & Treatment Resistance  
Proliferation**

# HER2 over-expression is sufficient to induce malignant phenotype



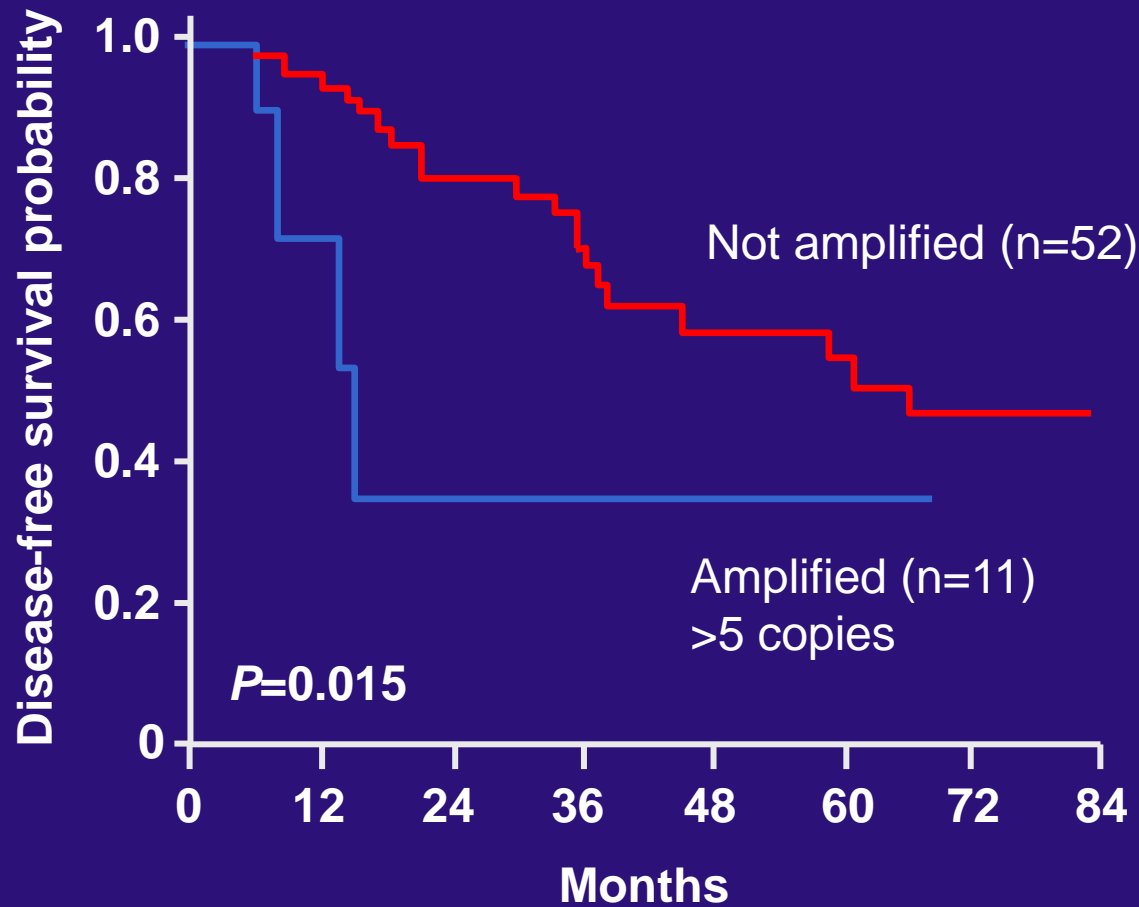
Chazin et al. Transformation mediated by the human HER-2 gene independent of epidermal growth factor receptor. *Oncogene* 1992;7(9):1859-66.

# HER2 over-expression leads to hormone-independent growth

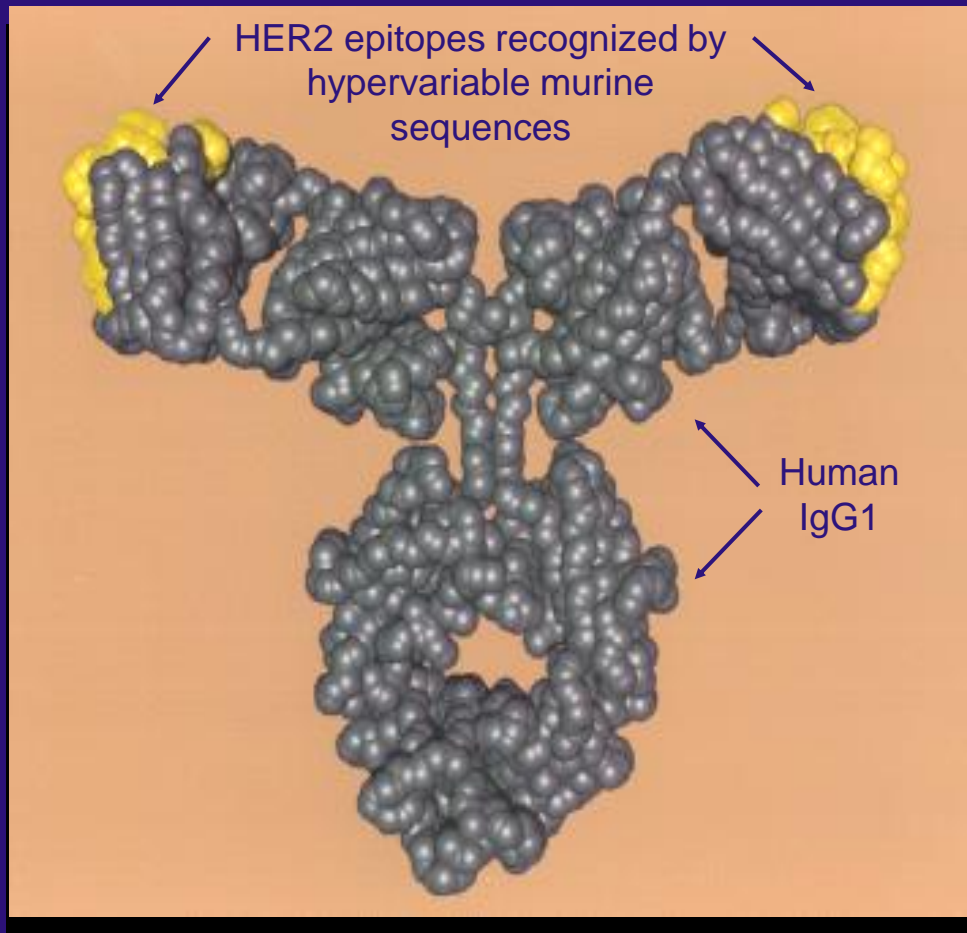


Benz et al. Estrogen-dependent, tamoxifen-resistant tumorigenic growth of MCF-7 cells transfected with HER2/neu. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 1992;24:85-95

# HER2-Positive Breast Cancer



# Trastuzumab (Herceptin<sup>TM</sup>): Humanized Anti-HER2 mAb



- Targets HER2 protein
- Selectively binds with high affinity ( $K_d \leq 0.5$  nM)
- 95% human, 5% murine

# Proposed mechanisms of trastuzumab action (1)

**Internalization and degradation of HER2 receptor protein**

Western blot shows trastuzumab downregulates HER2 protein in SKBR3 and MDA453 cells

**Induces p27Kip1 levels and P27Kip1-CDK2 interaction, decreasing CDK2 activity**

Western blot, immunoprecipitation, & kinase assay show that trastuzumab treatment of SKBR3 and BT474 cell lines increase P27Kip1 levels and interaction with CDK2, resulting in decreased CDK2 activity.

**Blocks HER2 signaling via disruption of PI3K/Akt signaling pathway**

Western blot shows that trastuzumab decreases phospho-Akt levels and Akt kinase activity.

Trastuzumab increases membrane localization of PTEN (P13K/Akt-inhibiting molecule)

**Reduces angiogenesis**

Trastuzumab treatment of breast ca xenografts reduces levels of VEGF, induces TSP1, and decreases microvessel growth



# Proposed mechanisms of trastuzumab action (2)

## **Immune effects: Stimulation of natural killer cells and activation of ADCC**

Lymphoid infiltration of tumor noted in pts who receive preop trastuzumab, and level of lymphocyte infiltration correlated with response to therapy. The Fc domain of trastuzumab IgG1 binds the Fc gamma receptor of NK cells, activating NK cell-mediated lysis.

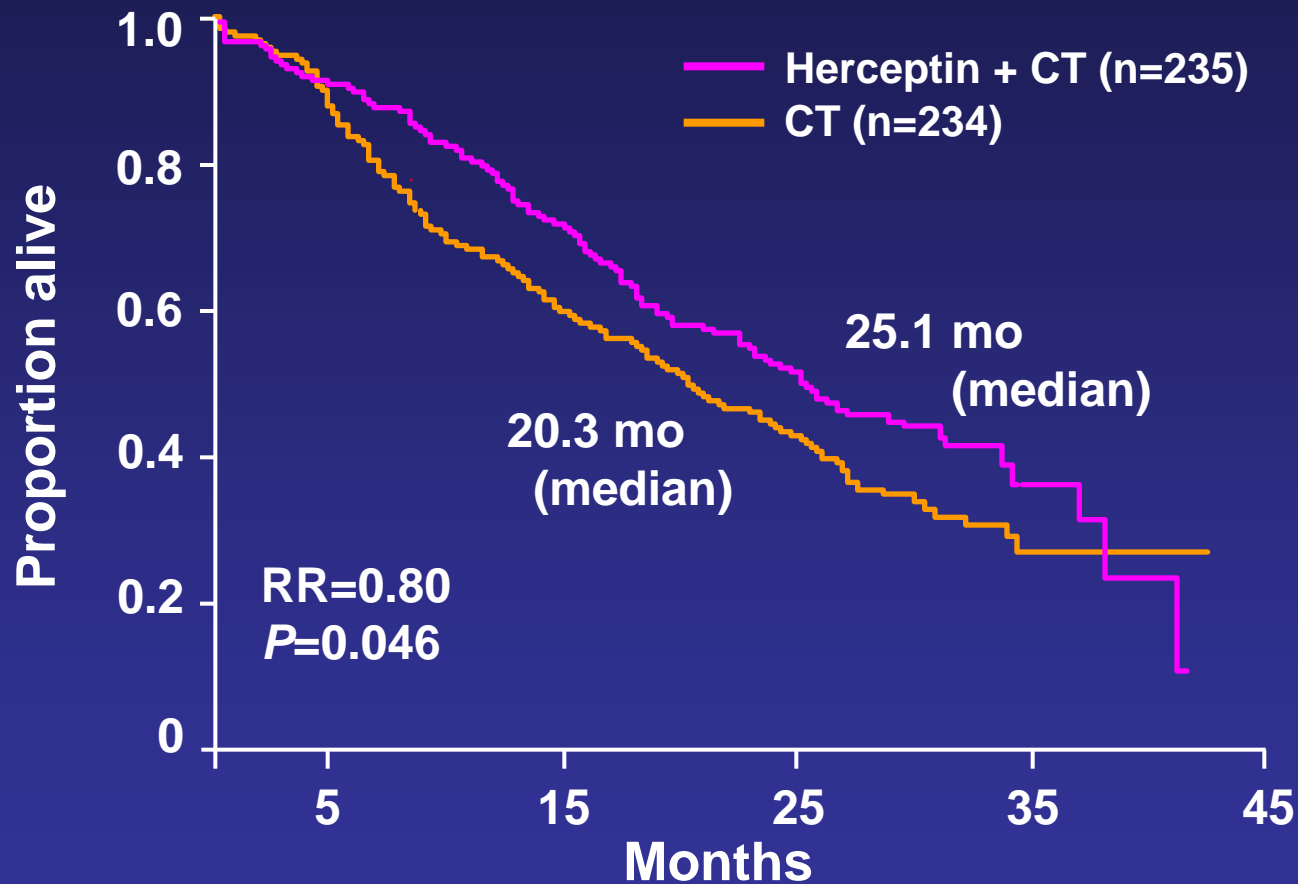
## **Inhibits HER2 extracellular domain proteolysis**

Trastuzumab inhibits basal and activated HER2 ECD cleavage in vitro. ECD levels decline in pts who respond to trastuzumab + docetaxel.

## **Inhibits DNA repair**

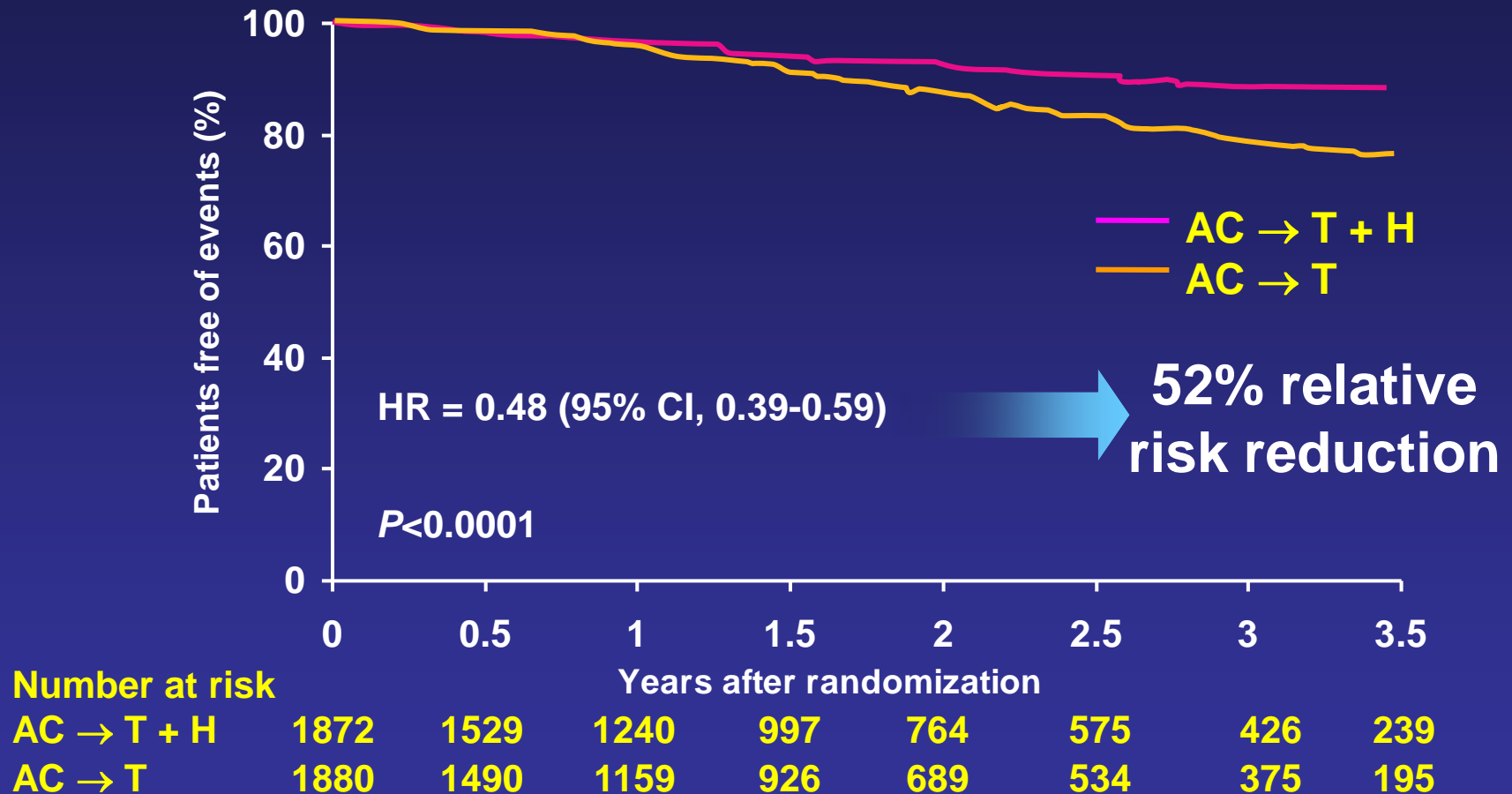
Trastuzumab partially inhibits repair of DNA adducts in vitro after treatment with cisplatin and radiation.

# Trastuzumab (Herceptin™) Combination Pivotal Trial in First-line MBC: Overall Survival



CT = chemotherapy (either doxorubicin or epirubicin + cyclophosphamide, or paclitaxel).  
Slamon et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2001;344:783.

# B-31/N9831 Combined Analysis: DFS (Median f/u: 2.5 years)



# Why target HER2 using agents other than Trastuzumab in Breast Cancer?

- Efficacy
- Primary resistance
- Secondary resistance
- Cardiac safety
- HER2 + molecular subtypes

# Proposed mechanisms of trastuzumab resistance

## **PTEN loss**

Trastuzumab disrupts Src binding to HER2, allowing PTEN to inhibit Akt and induce growth arrest.

## **Activation of alternative pathways**

Insulin-like growth factor-I receptor promotes proliferation and metastases. Trastuzumab is completely unable to block proliferation in cell lines expressing IGF-IR/HER2 heterodimers

## **Expression of ligands of the EGFR family**

Excess EGFR family ligands (particularly TGF $\alpha$ ) drive cells towards proliferation and inhibition of apoptosis.

## **Receptor masking or epitope inaccessibility**

MUC4 levels are higher in trastuzumab resistant clones

# Lapatinib

## *Drug Profile*

Lapatinib is the first-in-class oral small-molecule inhibitor *HER2* tyrosine kinase:

- Belongs to the 4-anilinoquinazoline class of tyrosine kinase inhibitors
- Binds reversibly to the cytoplasmic ATP-binding site of the kinase, thereby preventing receptor phosphorylation and activation
- Works intracellularly

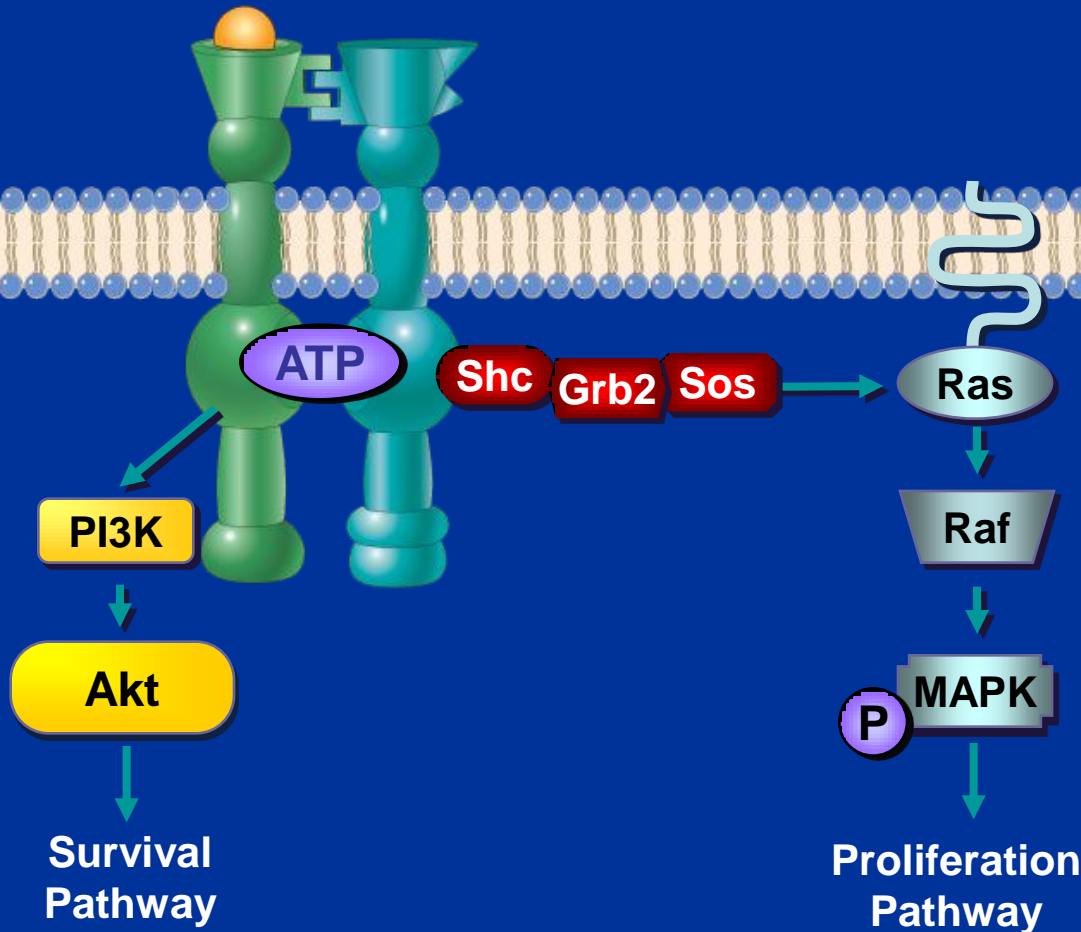


N-{3-Chloro-4-[(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy]phenyl}-6-[5-({[2(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]amino}methyl)-2-furyl]-4-quinazolinamine

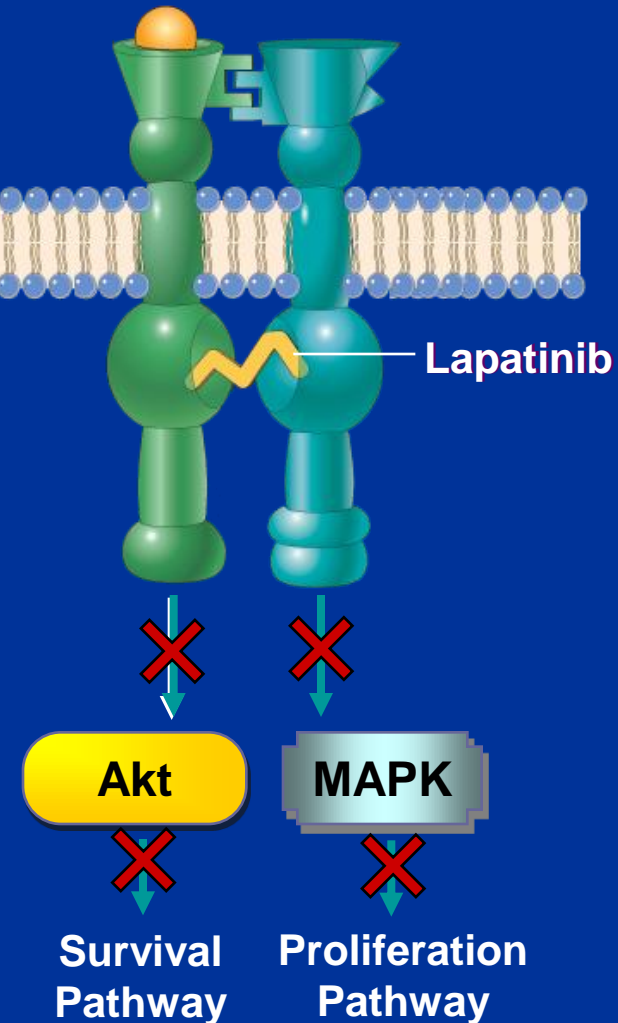
# Lapatinib

## *Mechanism of Action*

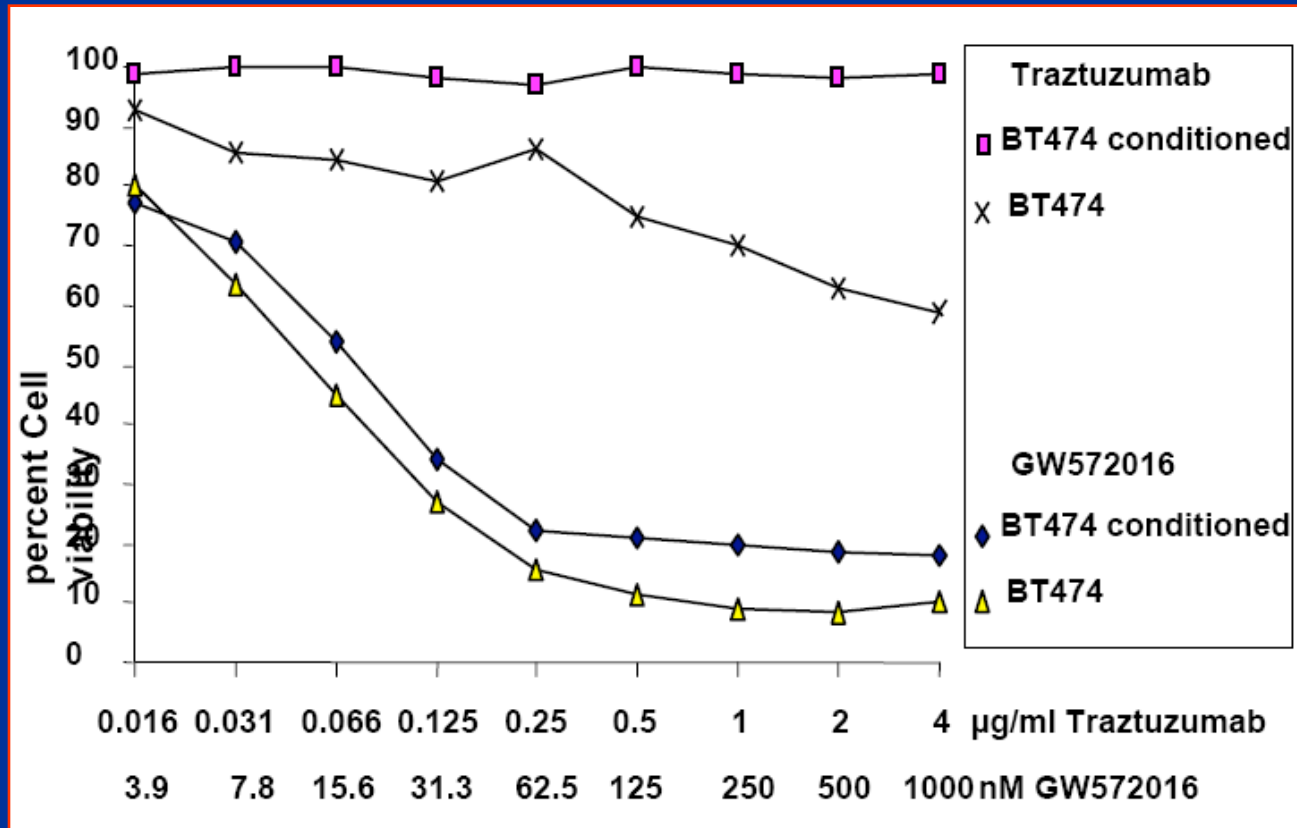
### Normal activation by ATP



### Activation blocked by lapatinib



# Non cross-resistance of lapatinib and trastuzumab *in vitro*



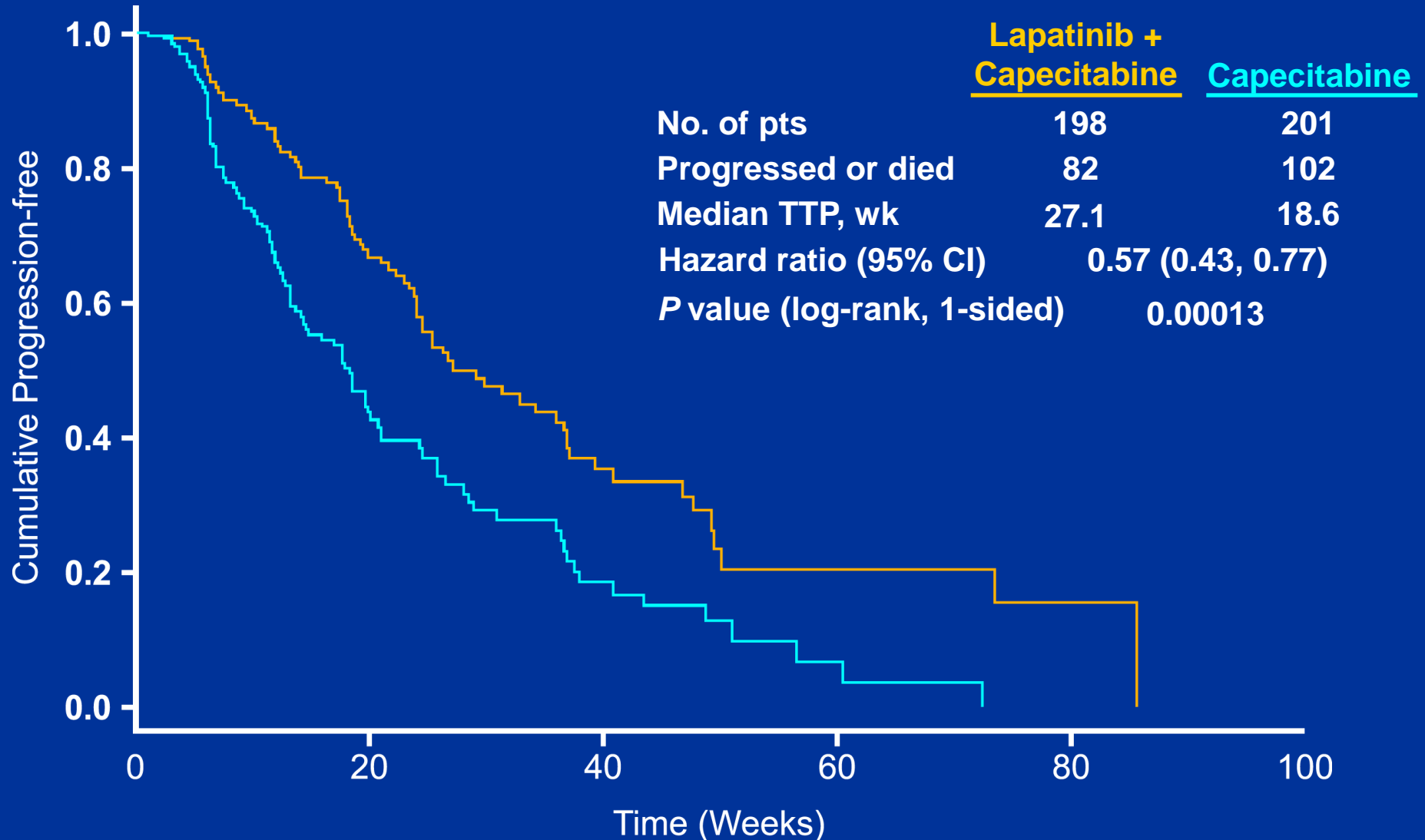
Activity of GW570216 (lapatinib) in HER2 over-expressing cells selected for long-term outgrowth in 100 µg/mL trastuzumab

Konecny, Pegram et al. *Cancer Res* 2006;66:1630-9.



# Time to Progression: *Intent-to-Treat Population*

## *Independent Assessment*



# CNS activity of lapatinib?

Baseline



Week 8



# **The Hormone Receptor-Positive subset of Breast Cancers**

# **Estrogen as a risk factor for breast cancer**

# Hormone-Dependent Indicators of Breast Cancer Risk (1)

Indicator	Risk group		Relative Risk
	Low	High	
Gender	Male	Female	150
Age (y)	30 - 34	70 - 74	17.0
Age at menarche	>14 years	<12 years	1.5
Oral contraceptive use	No	Yes	1.04 – 1.2
Age at first child birth (y)	<20 years	>30 years	1.9 – 3.5
Breast feeding (mo)	>16 months	0	1.37
Parity	>5	0	1.4
Age at menopause (y)	<45 years	>55 years	2.0

*Clemons and Goss. N Engl J Med. 2001;344:276.*

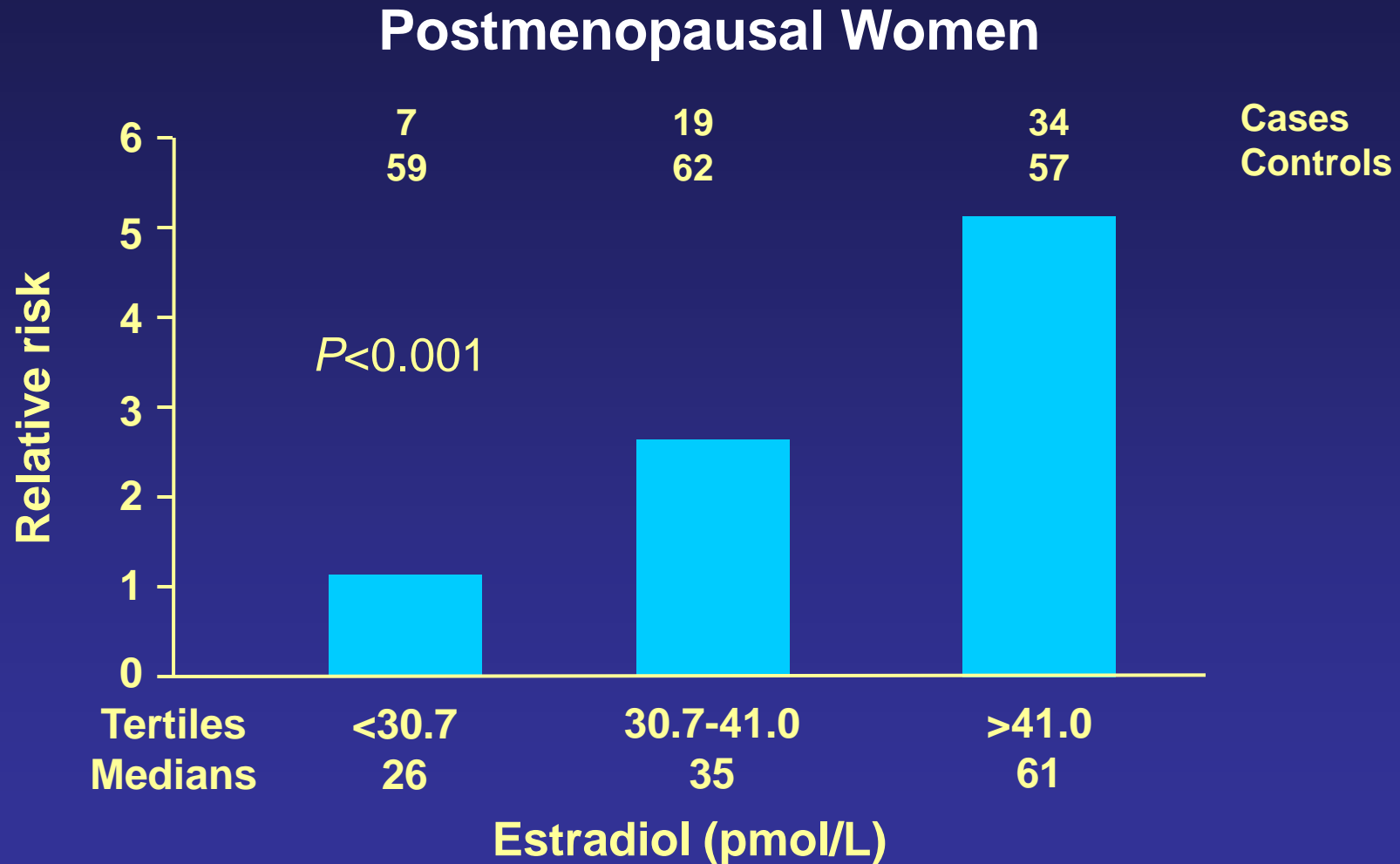
## Hormone-Dependent Indicators of Breast Cancer Risk (2)

Indicator	Risk group		Relative Risk
	Low	High	
Age at oophorectomy	<35	Never	3.0
Estrogen therapy	Never	Current	1.2 – 1.4
Estrogen/progestin therapy	Never	Current	1.4
Postmenopausal BMI	<22.9	>30.7	1.6
Family history	No	Yes	2.6
Serum estradiol levels	Low quartile	High quartile	1.8 – 5.0
Breast density (%)*	0	≥75	6.0
Bone density	Low quartile	High quartile	2.7 – 3.5

\*by mammography

*Clemons and Goss. N Engl J Med. 2001;344:276.*

# Odds Ratios of Developing Breast Cancer in Relation to Plasma Estradiol

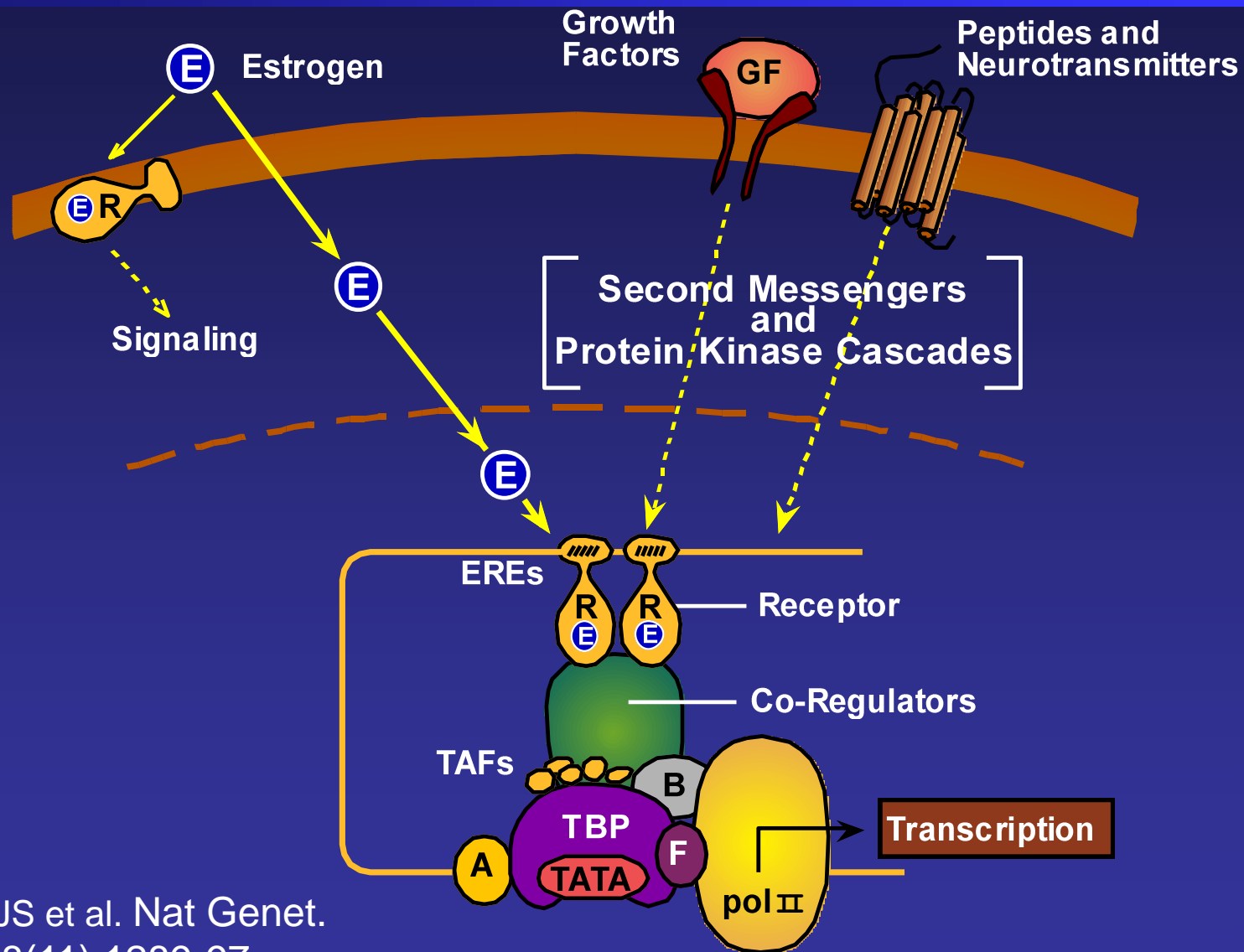


*Thomas et al. Br J Cancer. 1997;76:401.*

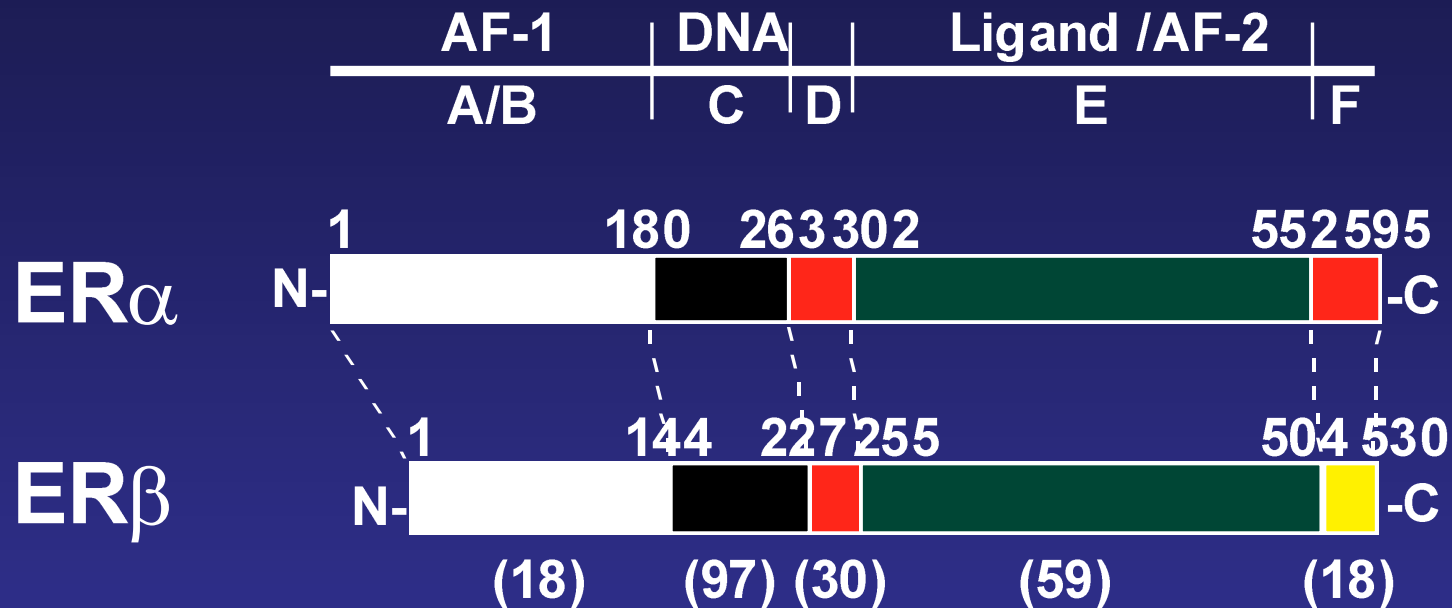
# **Estrogen and Carcinogenesis in the Breast**



# Estrogen receptor: A Genome-Wide Transcription Regulator



# Human Estrogen Receptors $\alpha$ and $\beta$



- Different tissue/cell distributions
- Different affinity for ligands
- Different gene activations

# Exquisite Precision in Receptor Regulation

**Small Changes  
In Ligand  
Structure**



**Major  
Changes In  
Biological  
Character**

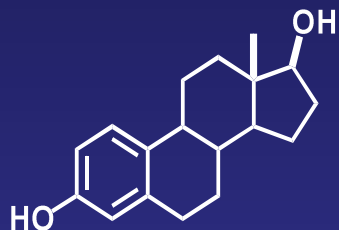
**ER $\alpha$ , ER $\beta$   
Different  
Ligands**



**Different  
Pharmacology  
At Different  
Target Genes**

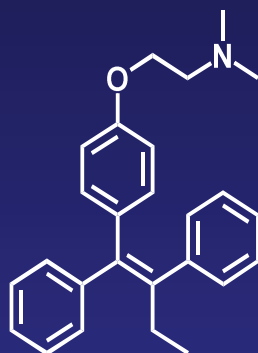
# Ligands for Estrogen Receptors

## Estrogens



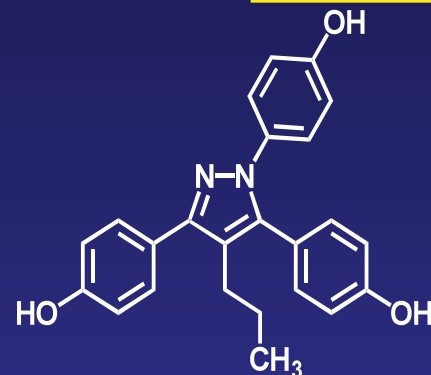
**Estradiol**

## Known SERMs

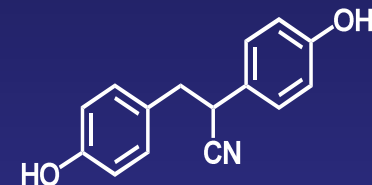


**Tamoxifen**

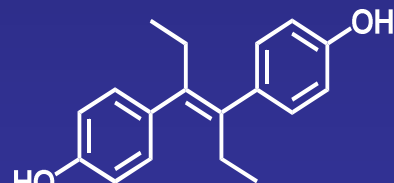
## Novel ER $\alpha$ /ER $\beta$ Selective Ligands



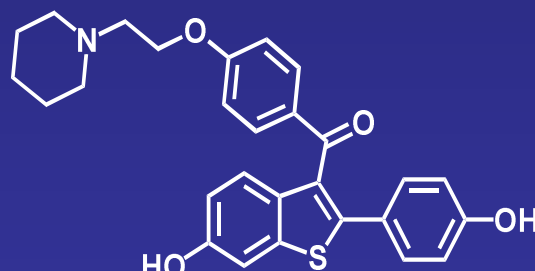
**PPT (Pyrazole)  
ER $\alpha$  Agonist**



**DPN (Nitrile)  
ER $\beta$  Agonist**

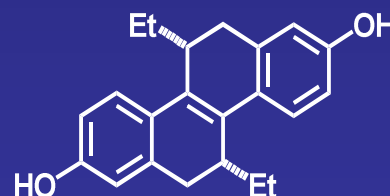


**Diethylstilbestrol**

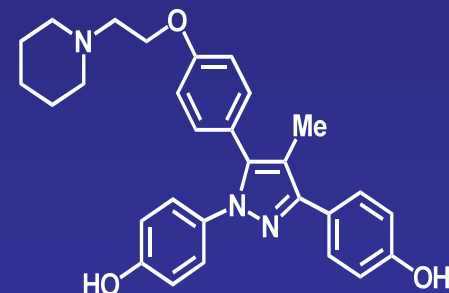


**Raloxifene**

Droloxifene, Idoxifene,  
Toremifene, GW5638,  
EM652, Cp-336156, others

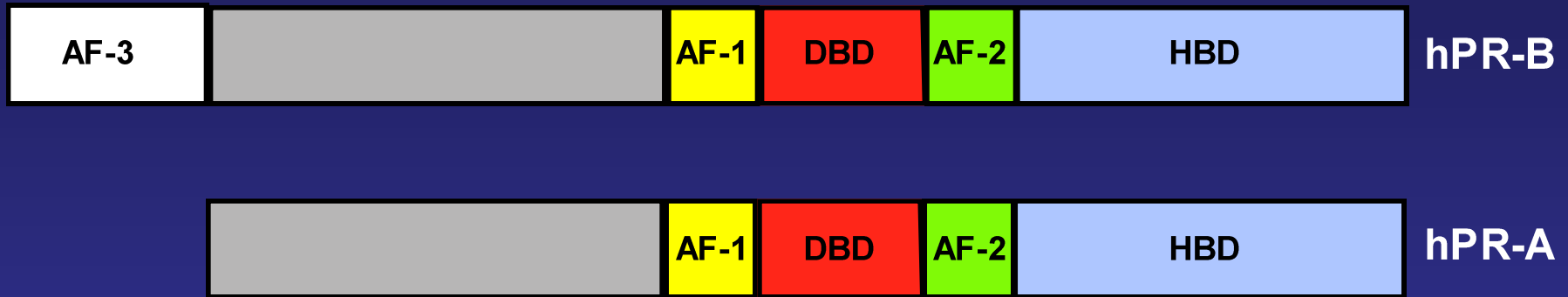


**R,R-THC  
ER $\alpha$  Agonist &  
ER $\beta$  Antagonist**



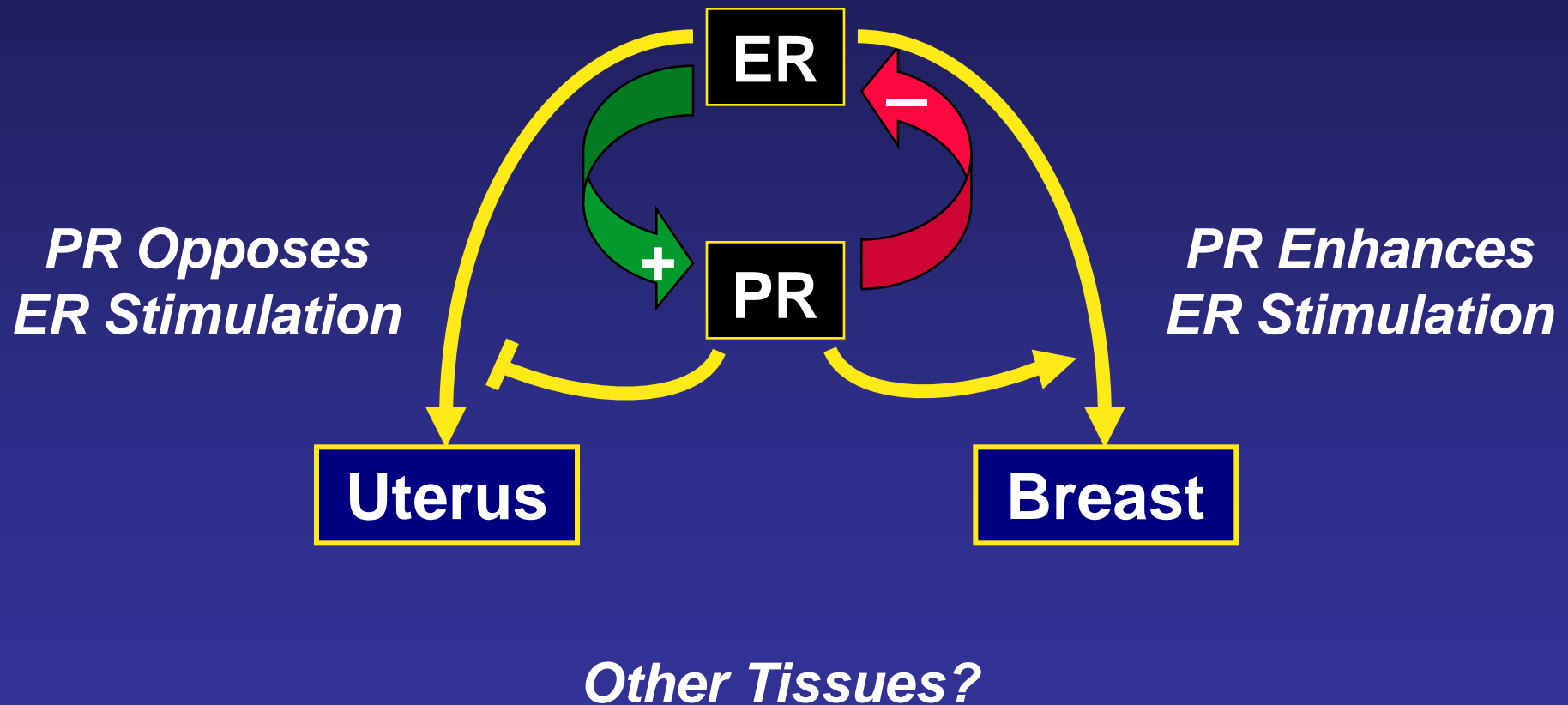
**MPP  
ER $\alpha$  Antagonist**

# Human Progesterone Receptor: A and B Forms



- From single gene by alternate transcription initiation (different promoters)
- Different activities

# Inter-relationships Between Estrogen and Progestin Receptor Signaling Pathways

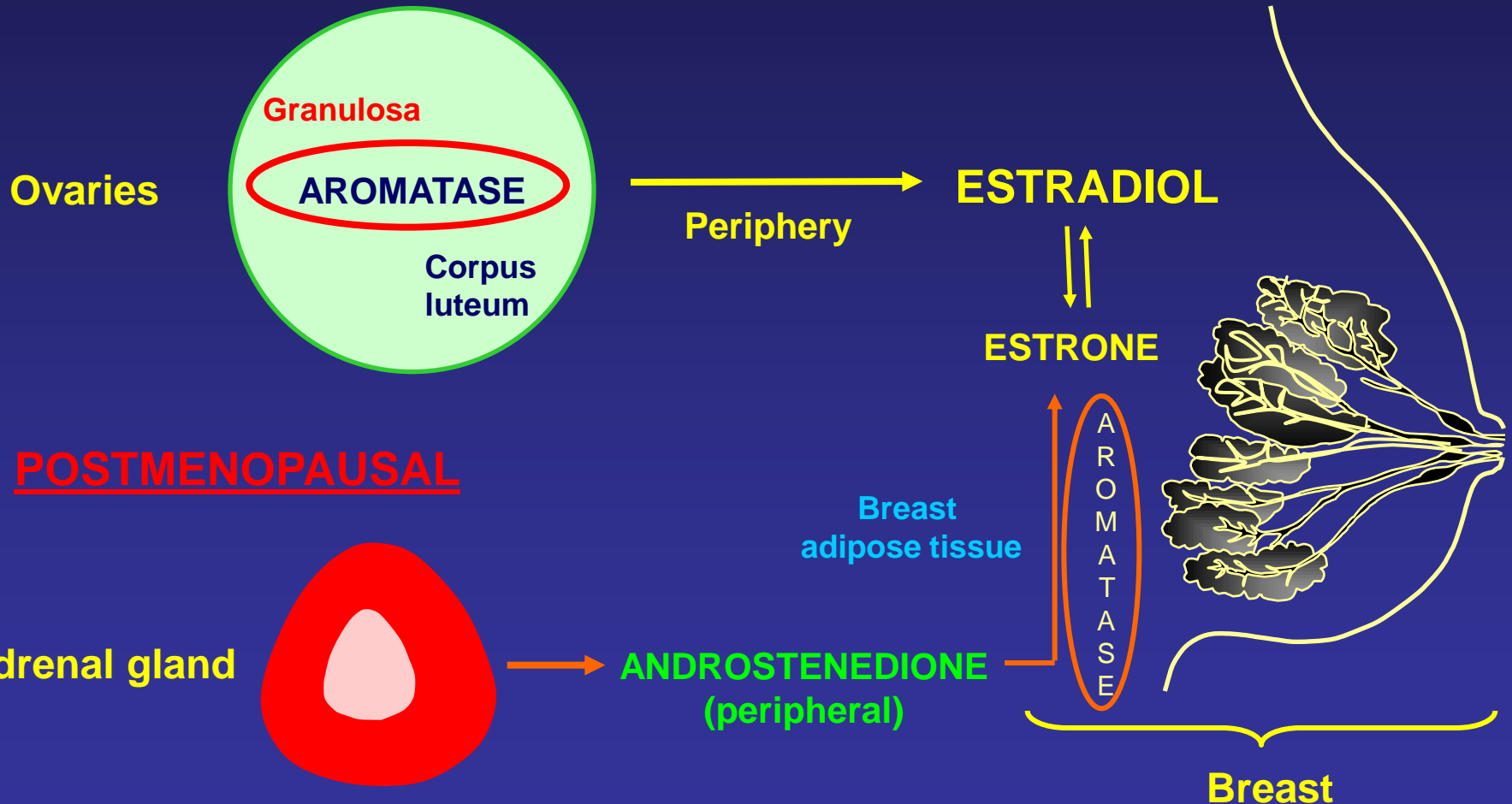


# Biology of Estrogens and Progestins are Determined By:

- Ligand structure
- ER subtype ( $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ ) and PR isoform (A or B)
- Gene promoter responsive unit
- Character and balance of co-activators and co-repressors

# Estrogen Stimulation of Target Tissues in Pre- and Post-menopausal Women

## PREMENOPAUSAL





# Mechanisms of Estrogen-Induced Carcinogenesis

- Estrogen promotes mammary cancer in rodents
- Direct proliferative effects of estrogens
  - Induction of enzymes involved in DNA synthesis
  - Activation of oncogenes
- Indirect proliferative effects of estrogens
  - Prolactin secretion
  - Production of growth factors
    - eg, TGF- $\alpha$ , EGF, plasminogen activators
- Genotoxic reactive metabolites

# Common Characteristics of Hormone-Dependent Breast Cancer

- Presence of estrogen and/or progesterone receptor
- Histologic differentiation
- Low S phase, diploid
- Long disease-free interval
- Indolent clinical course
- More prevalent in older patients
- Respond to endocrine therapy(ies)

# **Evaluating Hormone Receptor Status**

# Estrogen Receptor Status

- Evaluation of ER and PgR status in the tumor is ESSENTIAL for adequate management of breast cancer patients
- Treatment decisions are often made according to arbitrarily set cut-off values of receptor positivity

# ER and PgR are NOT standardized tests

- Quantitative biochemistry
  - Ligand binding DCC assay requires radioactive tracer & fresh tissue
- Semi-quantitative immunohistochemistry
  - Use of different antibodies
  - Multiple ways of scoring, different cut-off points
  - Cannot distinguish low levels of hypersensitive receptors

# Hormone receptor testing: KNOW YOUR LAB!!!

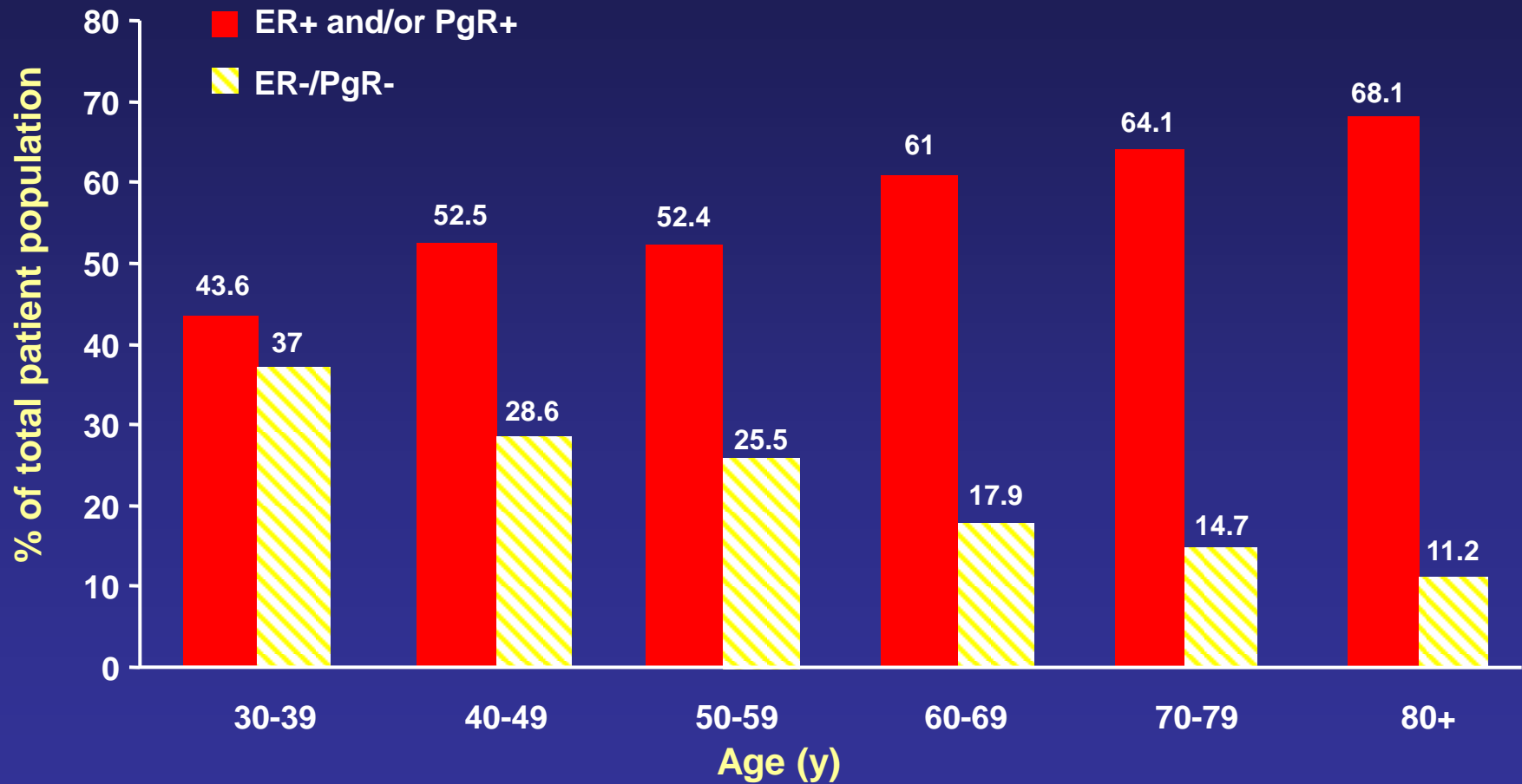
NSABP B-24 (*TAM vs. placebo for DCIS*):

- Local lab: **30% ER negative**
- Central review: **20% ER negative**

*Allred et al. SABCS 2002, abst 30.*

# **Estrogen receptor status: Incidence and Survival**

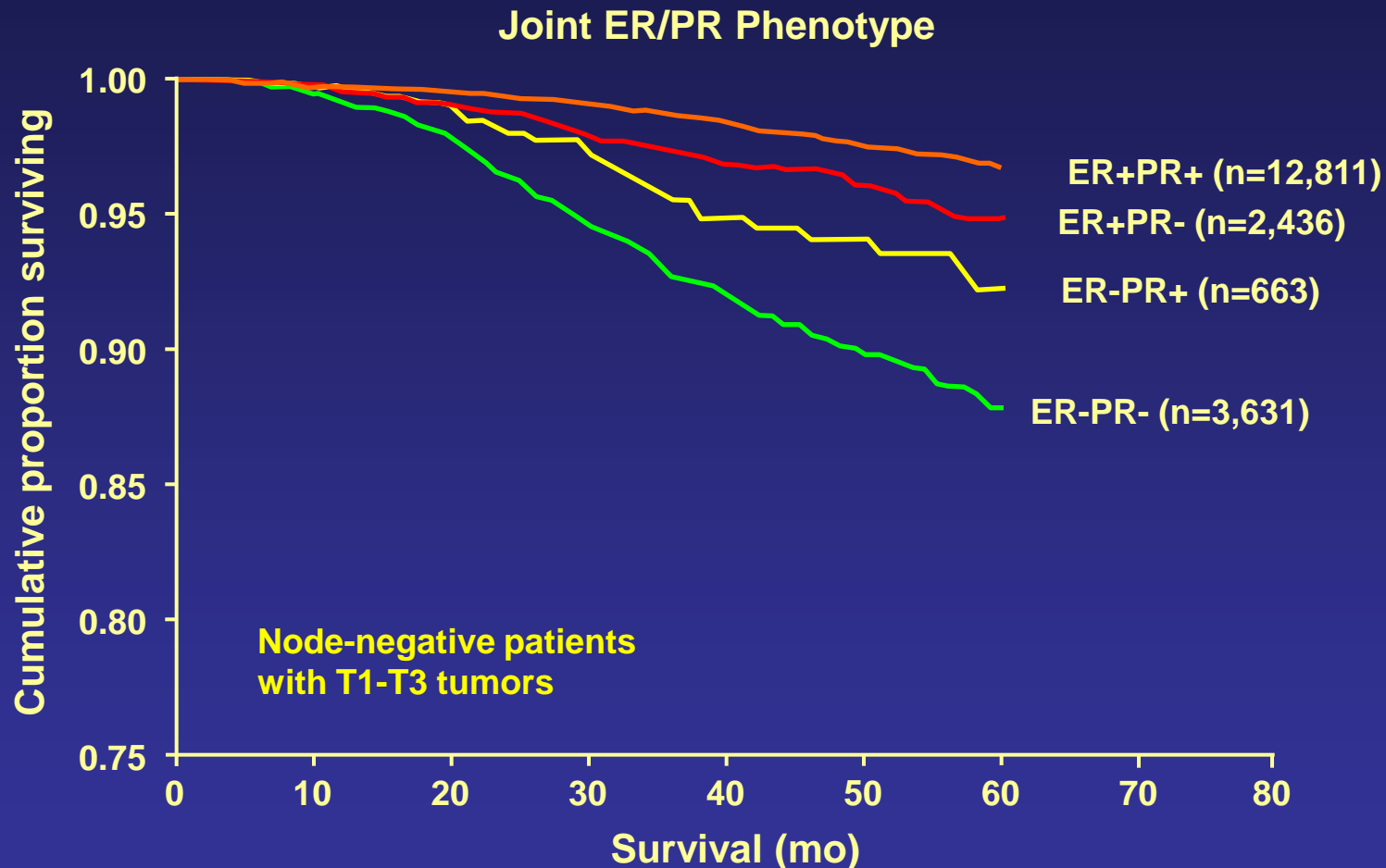
# Sex Hormone Receptor Status as a Function of Age



Wittliff et al. Steroid and peptide hormone receptors: methods, quality control, and clinical use.  
In: Bland, Copeland, eds. *The Breast*. 2nd ed. 1998:470.



# Breast Cancer–Specific Survival by Joint Hormone Receptor Expression (SEER Data)



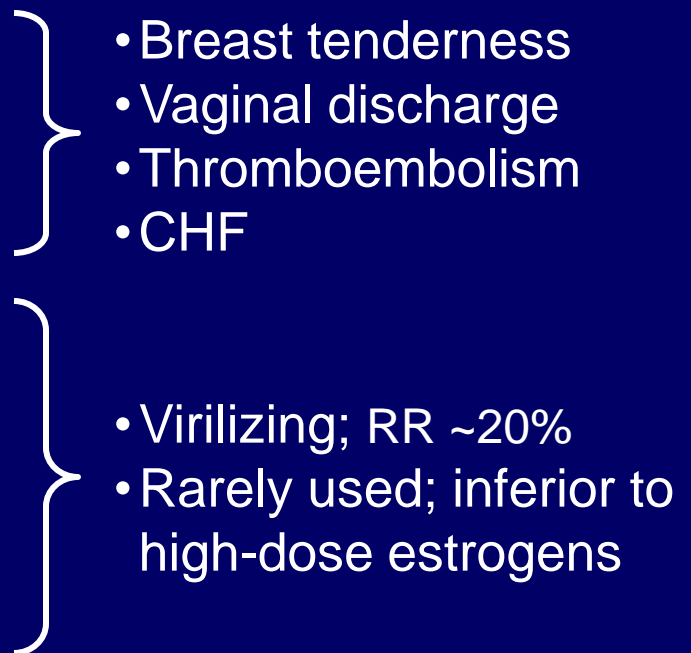
Anderson et al. Tumor variants by hormone receptor expression in white patients with node-negative breast cancer from the surveillance, epidemiology and end results database. *J Clin Oncol*. 2001;19:18. Reprinted with permission from the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

# **Endocrine-Based Breast Cancer Therapies**

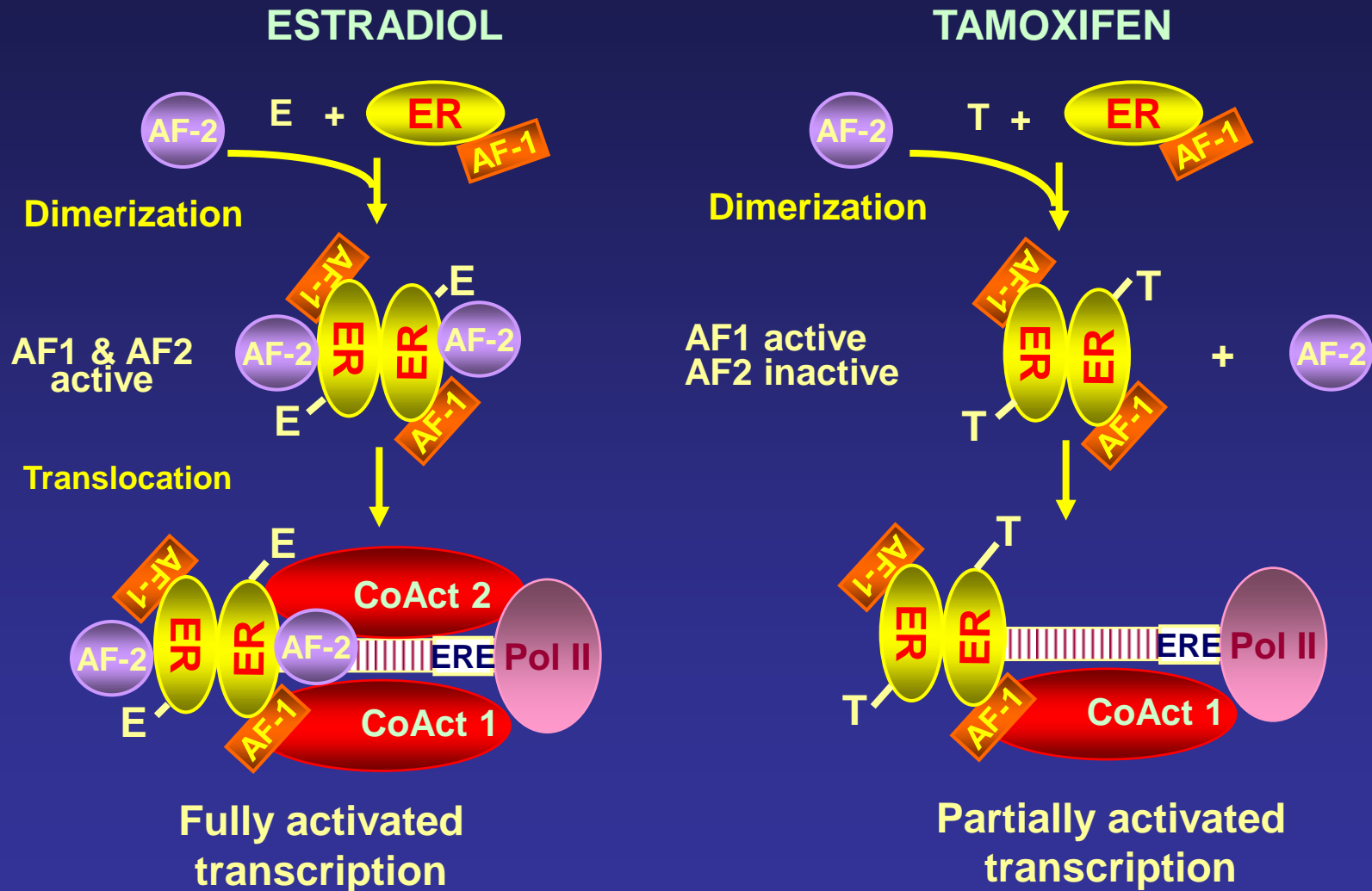
# Endocrine therapy options for breast cancer (1)

- Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators
  - Tamoxifen, toremifene
- Aromatase Inhibitors (post-menopausal)
  - Anastrozole, letrozole, or exemestane
- Selective Estrogen Receptor Downregulators
  - Fulvestrant
- Progestins
  - megestrol 40 mg po 4 x daily
- Ovarian suppression (pre-menopausal)
  - luteinizing hormone releasing analog
  - oophorectomy

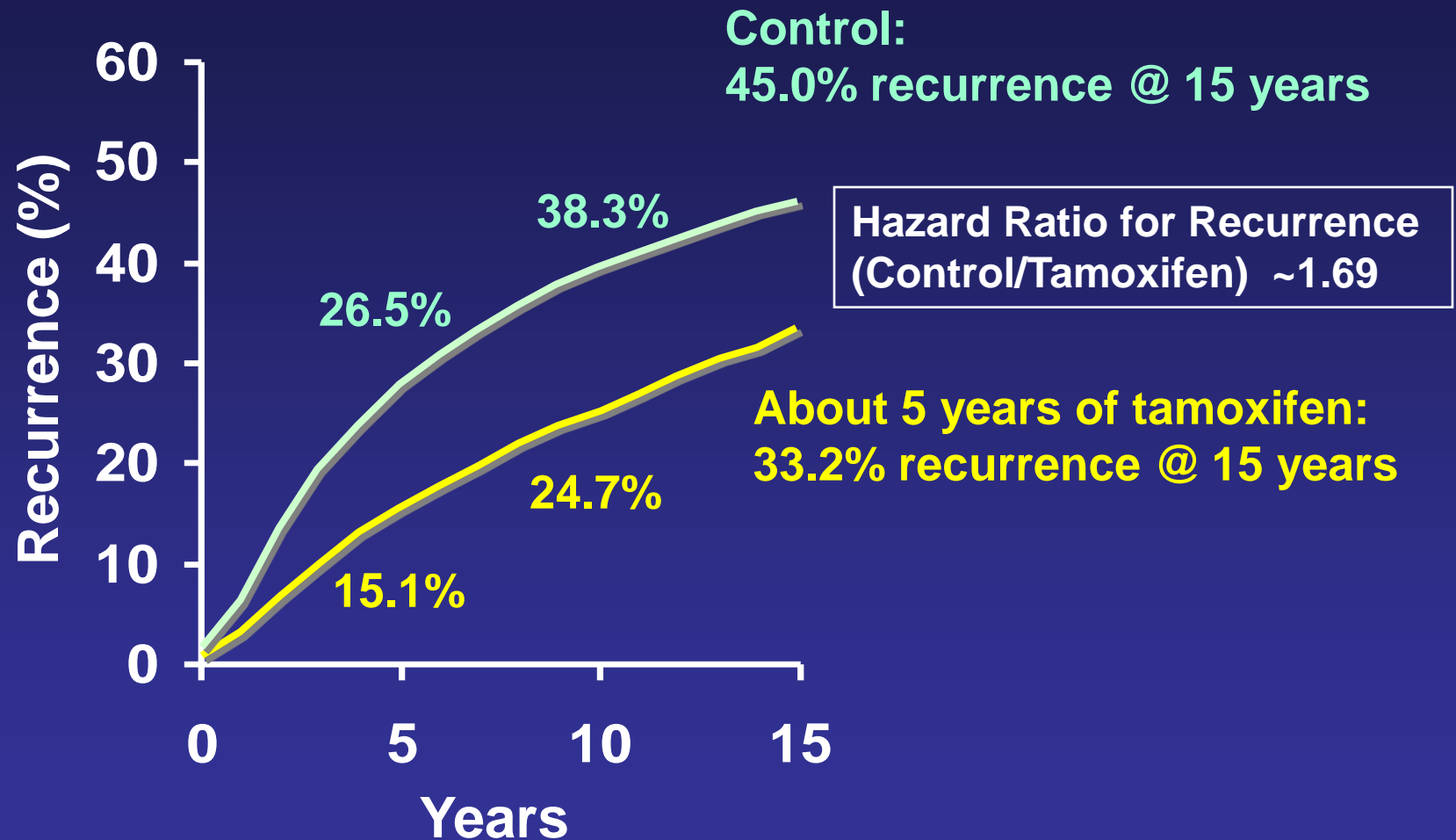
## Endocrine therapy options for breast cancer (2)

- High dose estrogen
    - Diethylstilbesterol 5 mg PO tid
    - Permarin 2.5 mg PO tid
  - Androgens
    - Testosterone
    - Fluoxymesterone 10 mg PO bid
    - Testolactone
- 
- Breast tenderness
  - Vaginal discharge
  - Thromboembolism
  - CHF
  - Virilizing; RR ~20%
  - Rarely used; inferior to high-dose estrogens

# Comparative Mechanisms of Action: Estradiol and Tamoxifen



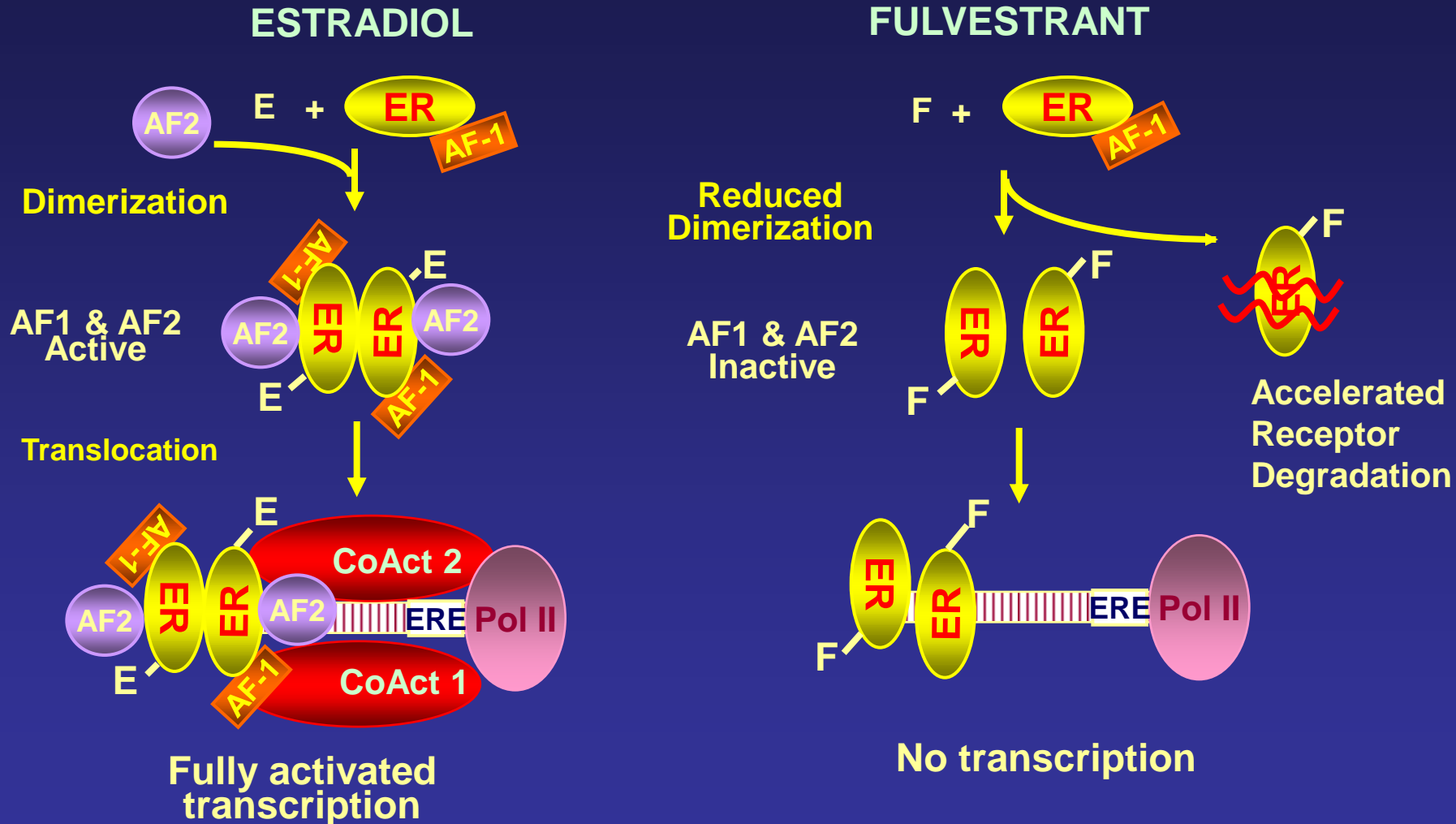
# Tamoxifen (for ~5 yrs) in HR+ Early Breast Cancer: Oxford Overview Meta-Analysis (N = 10,385)



# Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators

- Tamoxifen was the first selective estrogen receptor modulator to be developed
- Rationale for development of new SERMs
  - Optimize antagonistic/agonistic profile
  - Reduce toxicity and increase efficacy
- Current status: advantage over tamoxifen not shown, limited benefit in tamoxifen-resistant patients

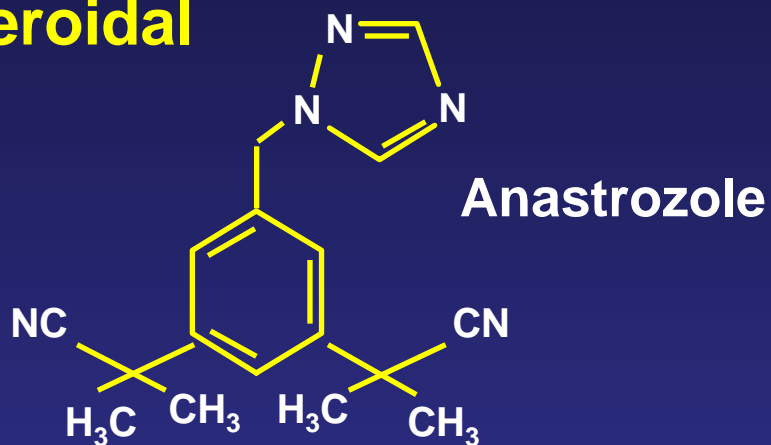
# Comparative Mechanisms of Action: Estradiol and Fulvestrant



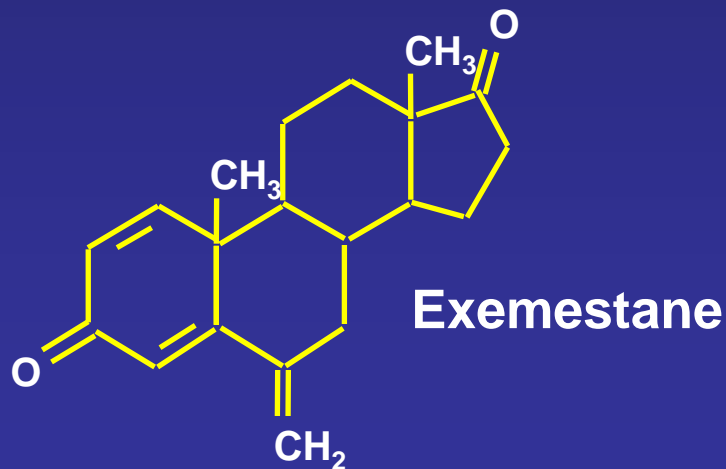


# Aromatase Inhibitors

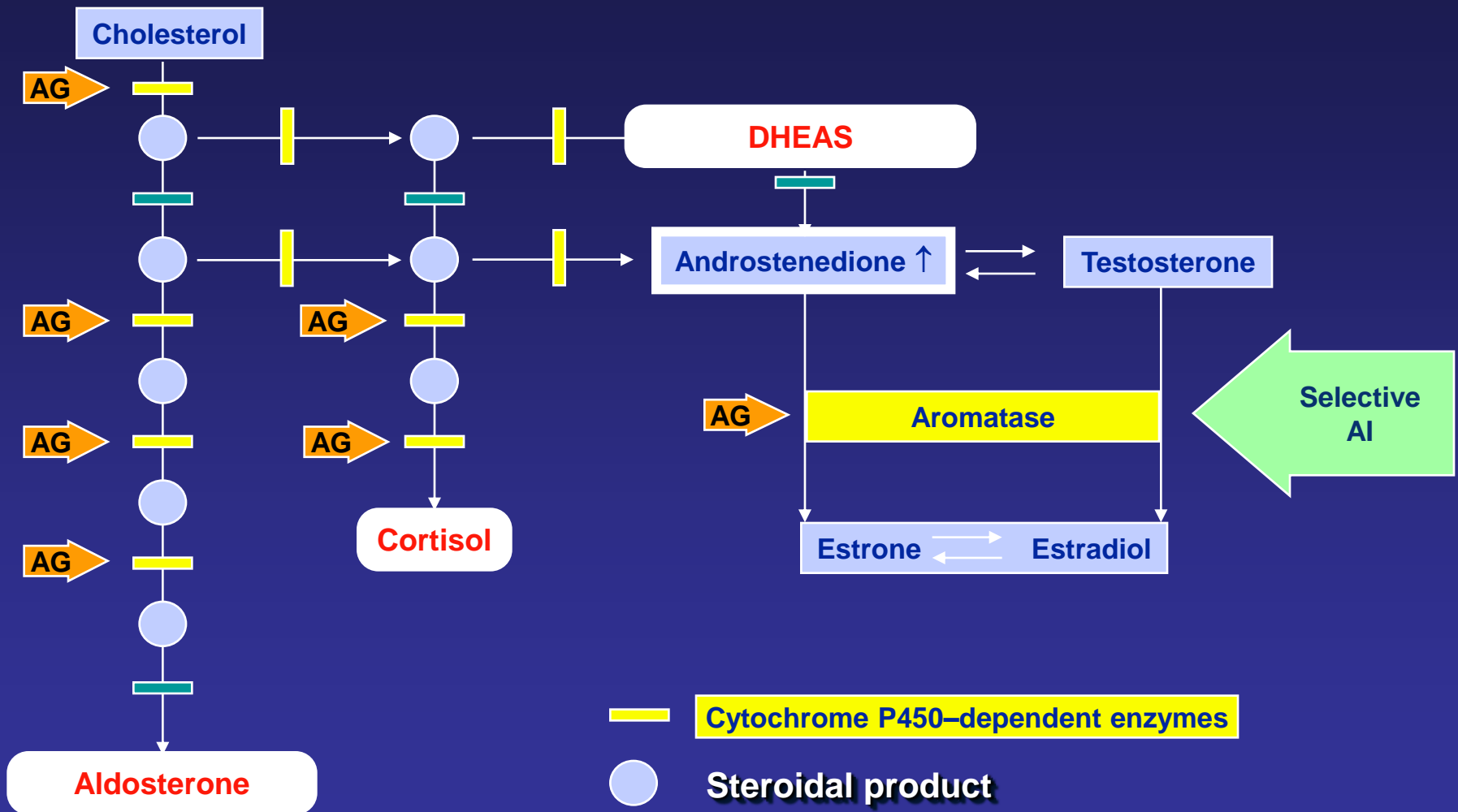
## Non-steroidal



## Steroidal

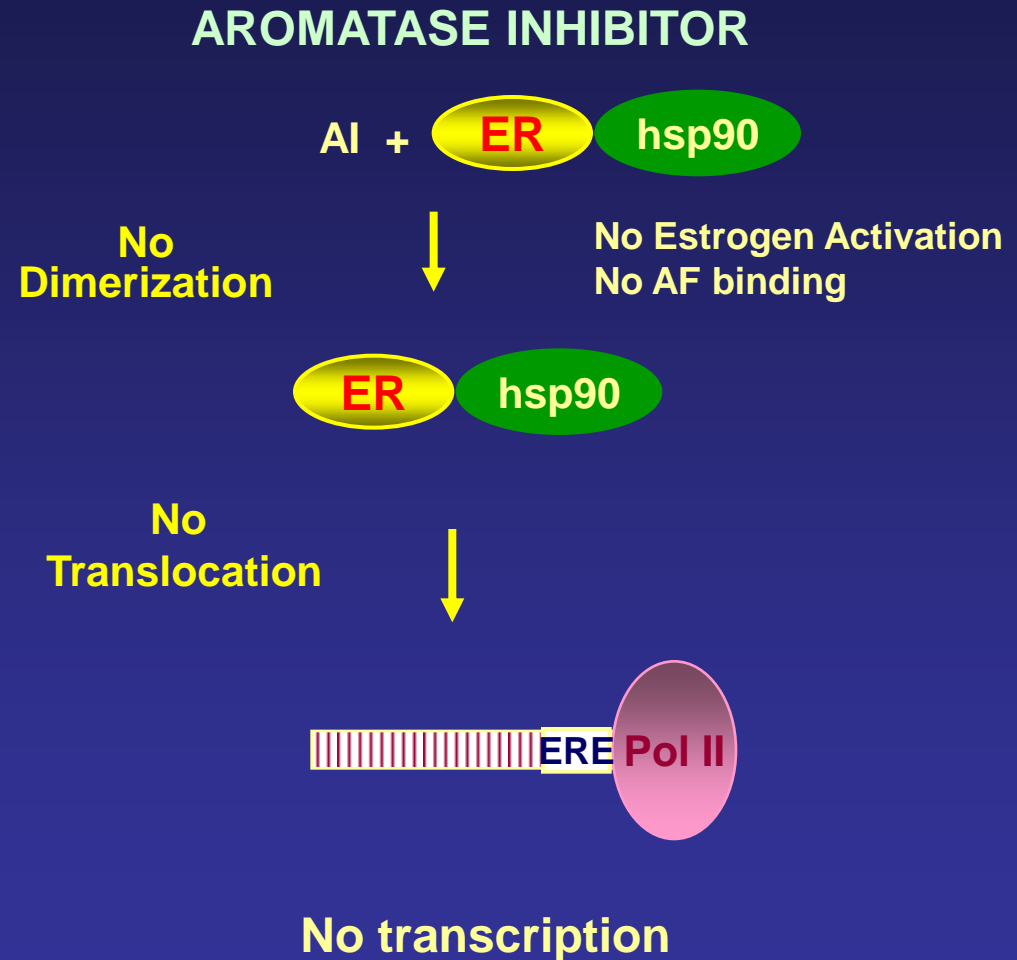
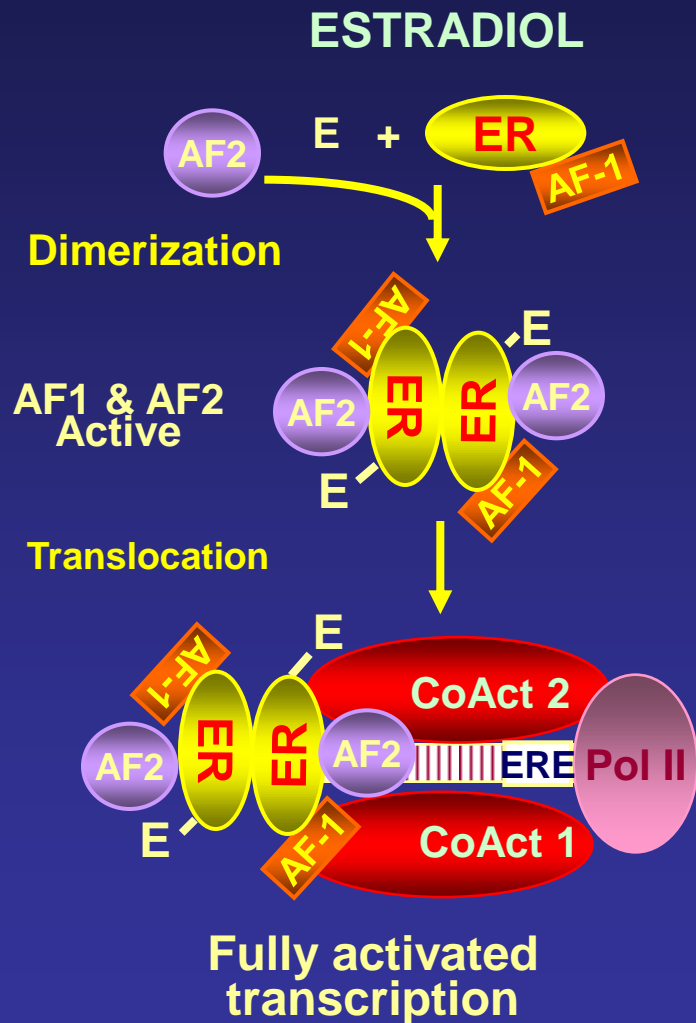


# Main Pathways of Steroidogenesis



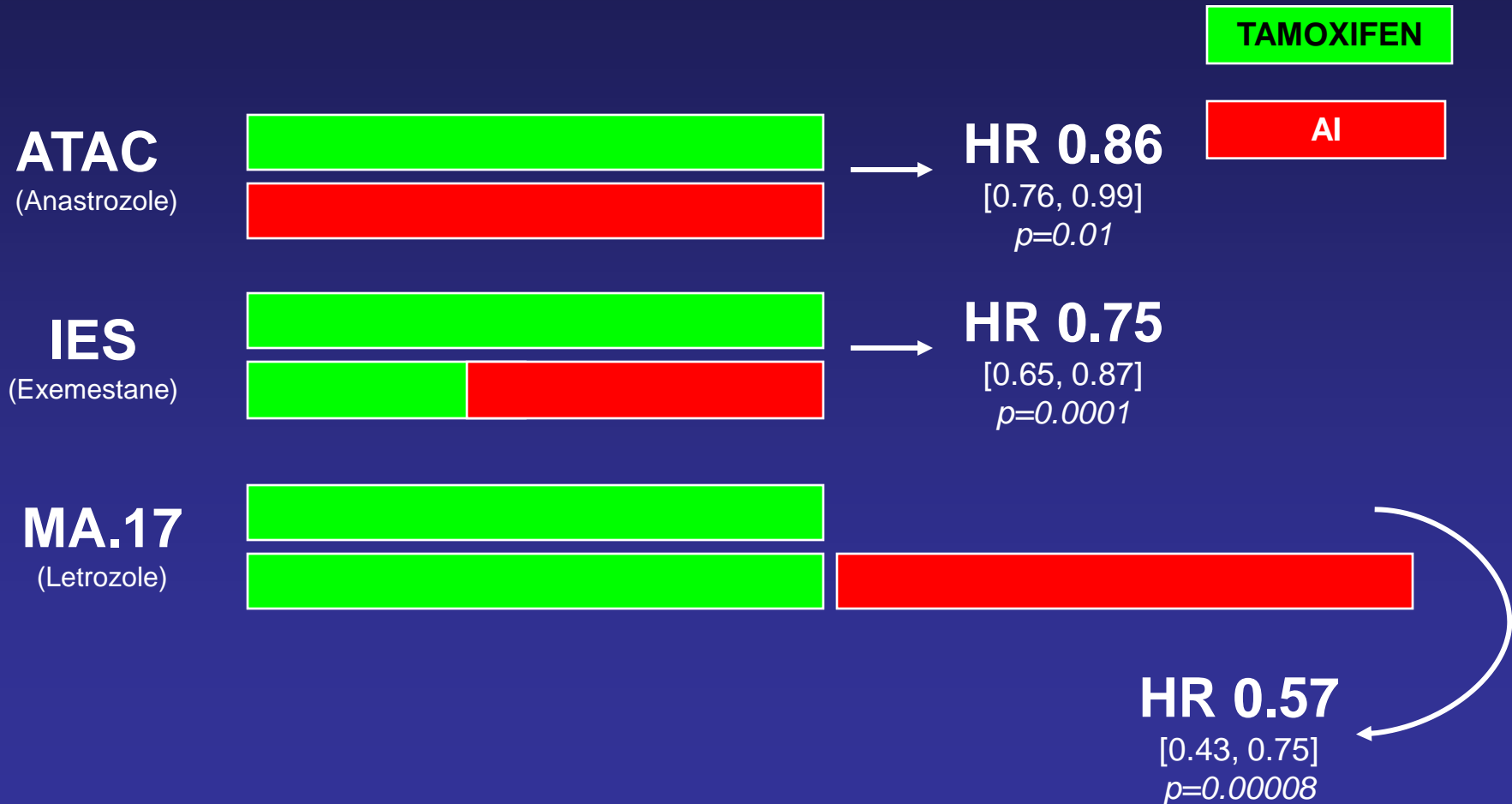
DHEAS = dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate.

# Comparative Mechanisms of Action: Estradiol and Aromatase Inhibitor



Adapted from Howell et al. *Cancer*. 2000;89:817.

# AI improves DFS compared to TAM in postmenopausal HR+ early breast cancer

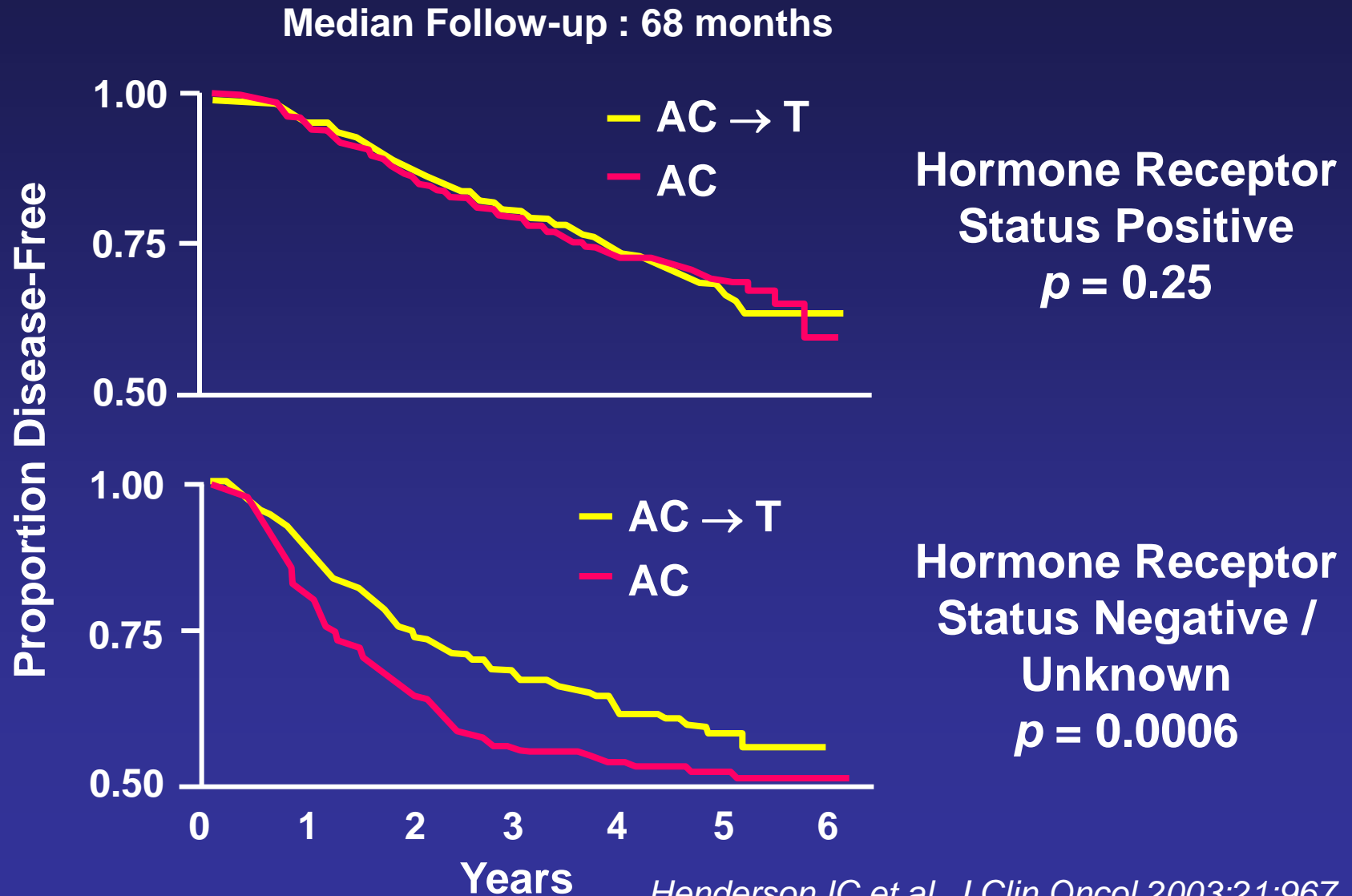


For hormone receptor-positive breast tumors, the MAJORITY of benefit comes from ADJUVANT ENDOCRINE THERAPY!

*She MUST receive endocrine therapy!!!!*

**Does hormone receptor status  
predict response to  
chemotherapy?**

# CALGB 9344: DFS by receptor status



Henderson IC et al. J Clin Oncol 2003;21:967.

# HR status and likelihood of pathologic complete response to pre-operative chemo

Study	N	Regimen	PathCR in HR neg	PathCR in HR pos
MDACC	1018	Pooled data	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
GEPARDUO	913	ddAD/AC-D	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
ECTO	438	AP-CMF	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
NSABP B27	2411	AC vs AC-D	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
GEPARTRIO	286	DAC/DAC-NX	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
GEPARDO	250	ddAD+/TAM	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>



# Improved PathCR rates for pre-op chemo in HR neg does not translate into OS benefit

	ER neg	ER pos
pathCR	24%	8%
5 yr OS	84%	96%

Cytotoxic chemotherapy has  
less relative benefit in  
estrogen receptor-positive  
early breast cancers

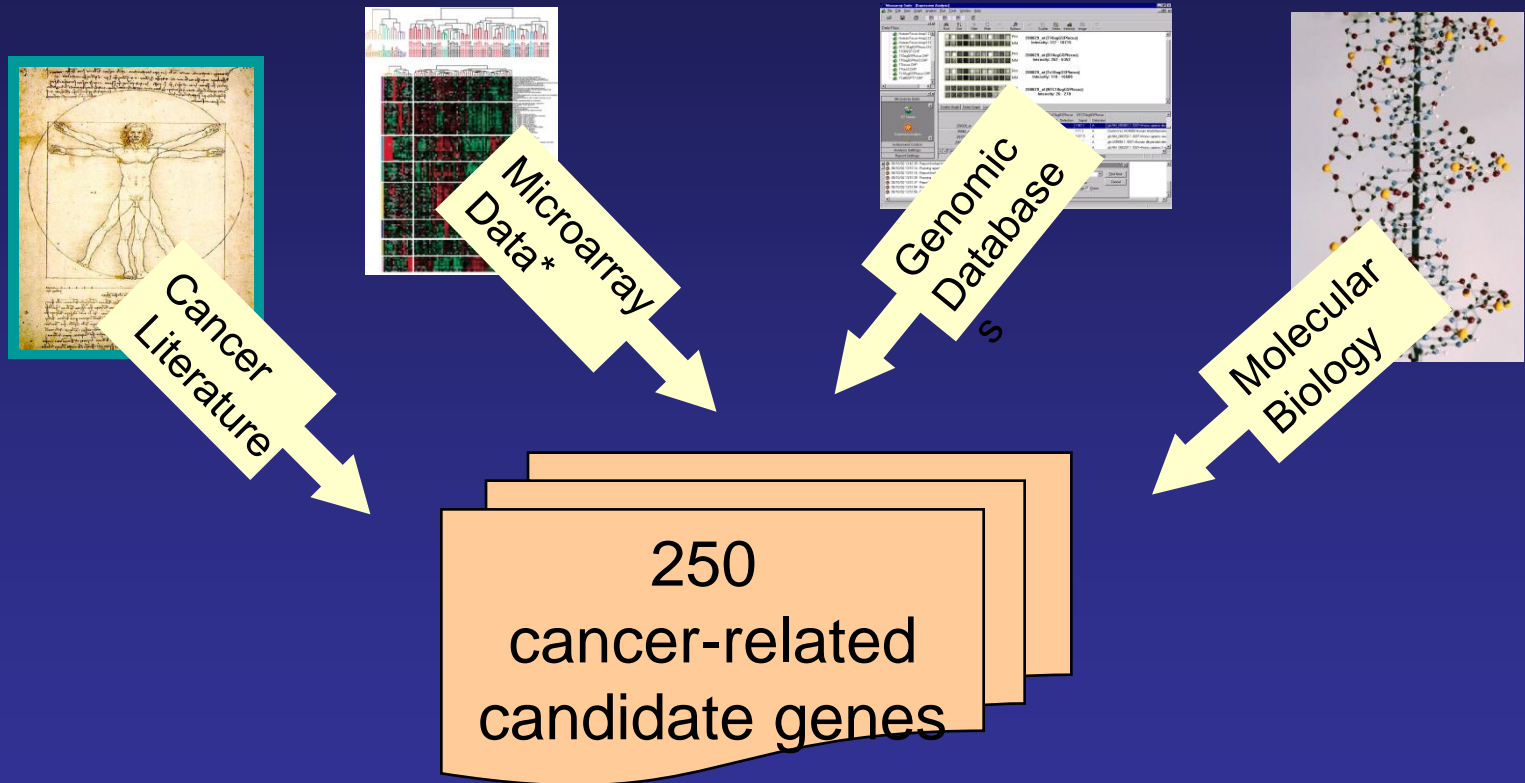
*Which brings us to.....*

## **The Oncotype Dx™ 21-gene recurrence score**

*Can we predict which HR+  
tumors will benefit from  
cytotoxic chemotherapy, and  
which HR+ tumors will not?*

# Oncotype DX™ Technology: Candidate Gene Selection

*From ~25,000 genes:*



**\*Sources include: van't Veer et al, *Nature* 2002;415:530-6.  
Sorlie et al, *PNAS* 2001 98:10869-74.  
Ramaswamy et al, *Nat Genet* 2003;33:49-54.  
Gruvberger et al, *Cancer Res* 2001;61:5979-84.**

# Oncotype DX 21 Gene Recurrence Score (RS) Assay 16 Cancer and 5 Reference Genes

## PROLIFERATION

Ki-67  
STK15  
Survivin  
Cyclin B1  
MYBL2

## ESTROGEN

ER  
PR  
Bcl2  
SCUBE2

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RS} = & + 0.47 \times \text{HER2 Group Score} \\ & - 0.34 \times \text{ER Group Score} \\ & + 1.04 \times \text{Proliferation Group Score} \\ & + 0.10 \times \text{Invasion Group Score} \\ & + 0.05 \times \text{CD68} \\ & - 0.08 \times \text{GSTM1} \\ & - 0.07 \times \text{BAG1} \end{aligned}$$

**GSTM1**

**BAG1**

## INVASION

Stromolysin 3  
Cathepsin L2

**CD68**

## HER2

GRB7  
HER2

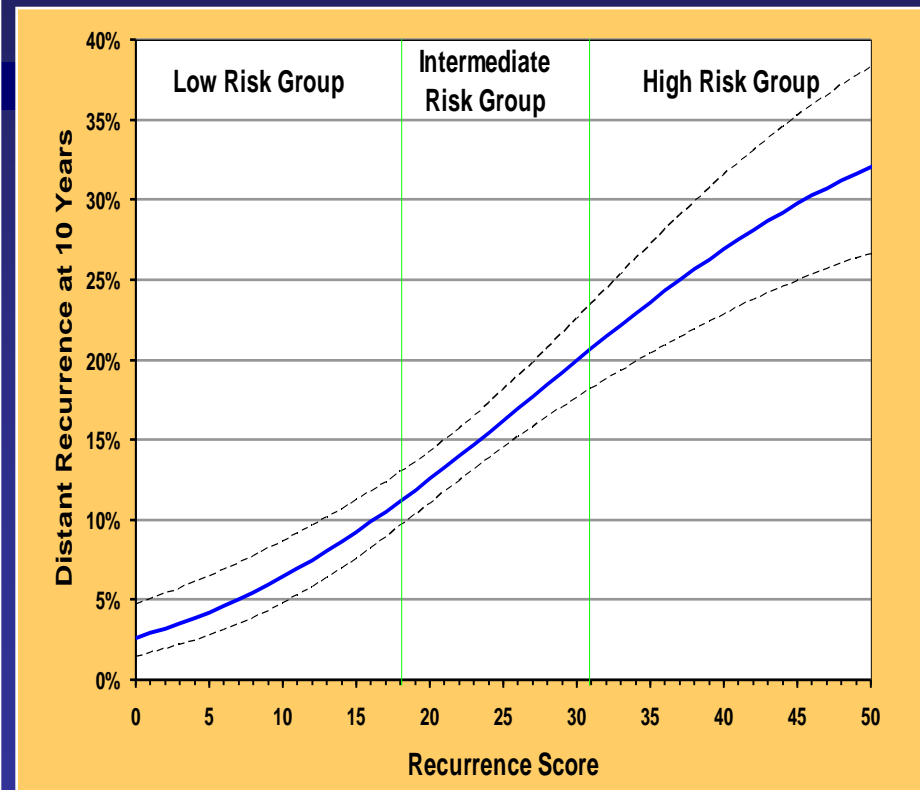
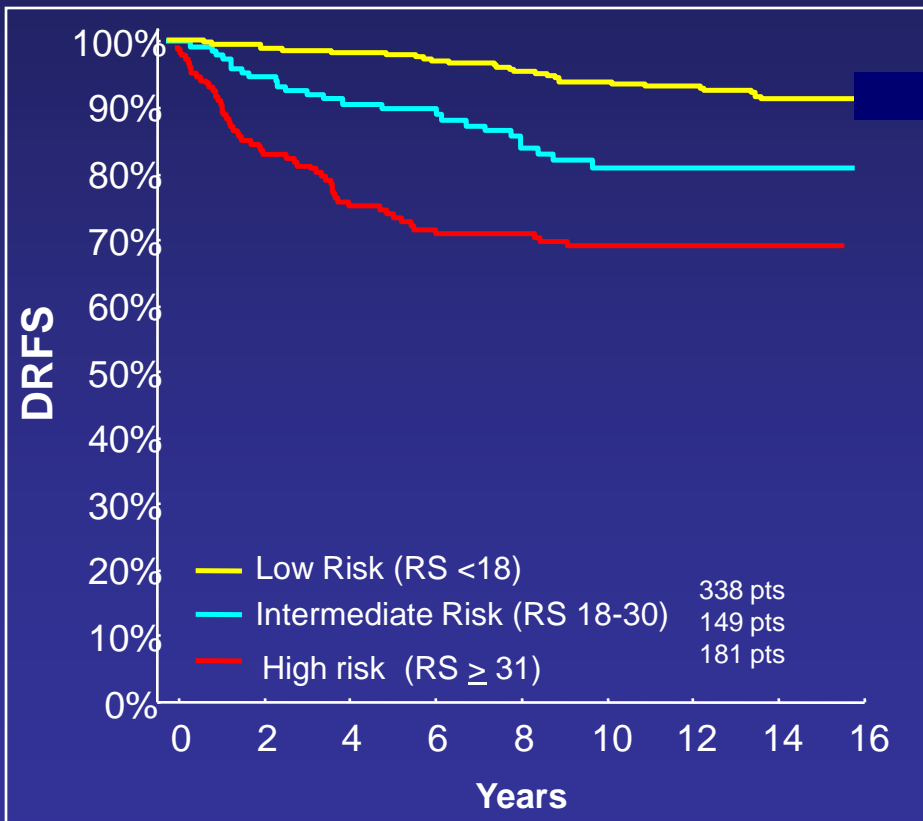
## REFERENCE

Beta-actin  
GAPDH  
RPLPO  
GUS  
TFRC

Category	RS (0 – 100)
Low risk	RS < 18
Int risk	RS ≥ 18 and < 31
High risk	RS ≥ 31

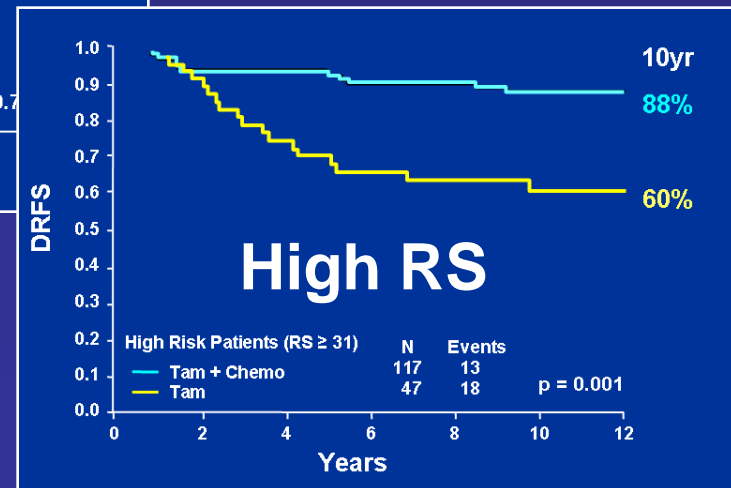
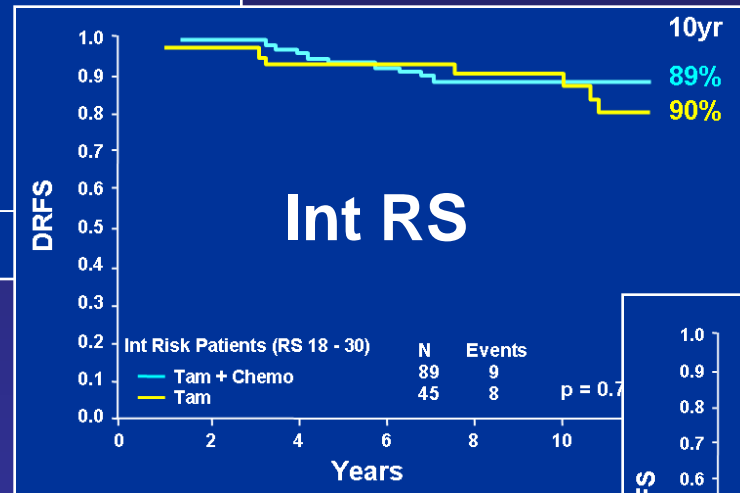
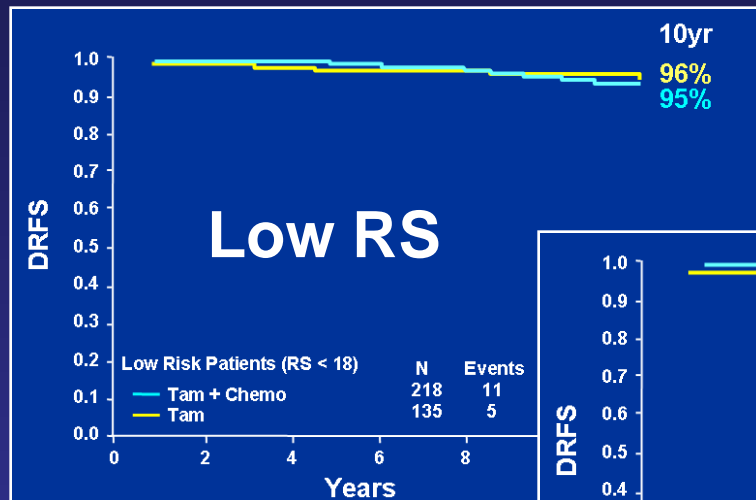
# Validation Study of Oncotype DX

- Pts Rx w/ Tamoxifen from NSABP B-14 (N=668)
- Performance exceeds that of patient age, tumor size



# Oncotype Dx: Chemotherapy benefit according to Recurrence Score in NSABP B20 (Node neg ER+)

## *TAM vs TAM + Chemo*



# Oncotype Dx™ 21-gene Recurrence Score

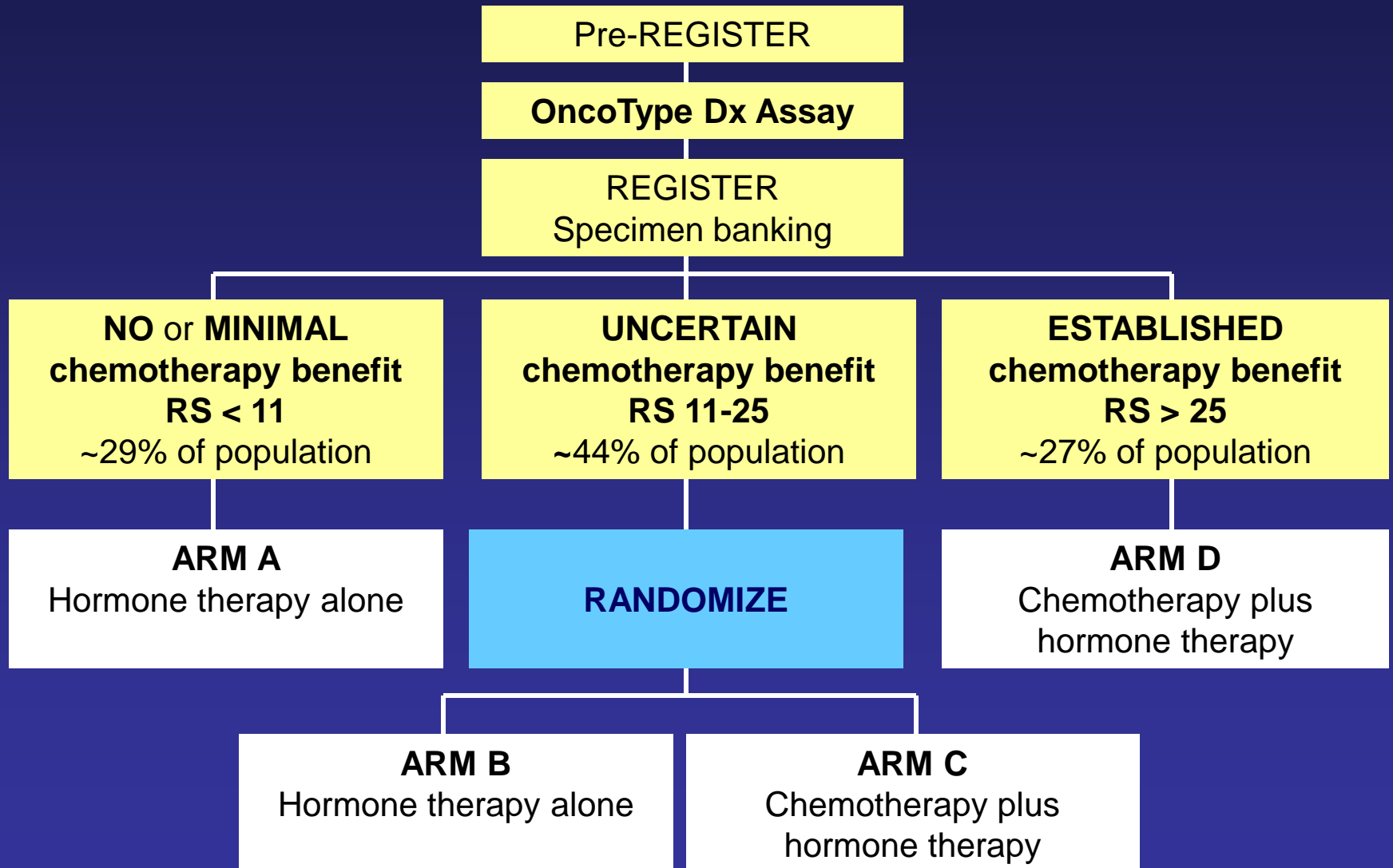
- Prognostic?
- Predicts tamoxifen response?
- Predicts chemotherapy response?
- Low RS associated with no chemotherapy benefit?
- High RS associated with large chemotherapy benefit?



# Criticisms/Comments regarding the 21-gene recurrence score

- Developed in retrospective fashion in clinical trials that utilized inferior chemotherapy and endocrine therapy
  - *Prospective validation is pending!*
- Only use for HR+, axillary node-negative, HER2-negative tumors!
- DO NOT use Oncotype as a tool to decide if you will or will not give endocrine therapy for a HR+ tumor!

# PACCT-1 TAILORx Trial (Trial Assigning Individualized Options for Treatment)



# Breast Cancers are a Heterogeneous Group of Diseases

